

**Thru
the Years
With Old
First**

by

Alice E. Brown



A History *of the*
First Methodist Church
of Hammond, Indiana



LAKE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

*The Mother Church of the Region
... . At the Heart of the Calumet*

The Northwest Indiana Conference of the Methodist Church, convening in the First Methodist Church, Frankfort, Indiana, in June 1944, recommended that:

“Every pastor be commissioned to present a full and complete history of his own charge. The pastor is to be held responsible for its completion and presentation to the Historical Society.”

Dr. Phillips Brooks Smith, pastor of the First Methodist Church, Hammond, Indiana, appointed Mrs. Harry S. Brown to complete this history.



Mrs. Harry S. Brown, Historian



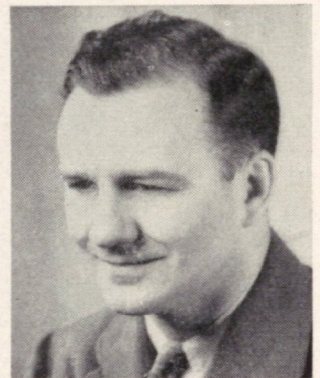
Dr. Phillips Brooks Smith



Mrs. W. Vaughn Ischie
Typist

Mrs. Ischie graciously donated her time and ability to type the manuscript for this history. This was quite a task as several copies had to be made. She also did all legends for the pictures. Her kindness and help are greatly appreciated.

Thru the untiring energy and interest of Mr. Wheeler, many old photographs were secured and reproduced here. We all feel that he has earned the hearty congratulations of the people of First Church.



Marvin Wheeler
Photographer

Thru the Years With Old First

The History of the First Methodist Church of Hammond, is not only the story of a church, the first Protestant church in the region, but the story of the first church in the region. It is the story of an era that is past. It is the story of pioneering, of hardship and privation; of prosperity and plenty. It is the story of perseverance and faith on the part of the early settlers. It is the story of adventure and growth, the story of dreams and fulfilment; a record of events and a memorial to the founders, to their courage and determination.

Its story is so closely related to the history of the region, the community and the town of Hammond, that it is well to recall early conditions that prevailed and later led to the founding of Hammond, and to the organization of this great church, at the heart of the Calumet.

EARLY SETTLEMENTS IN LAKE COUNTY

From the time of peace following the French and Indian Wars and the opening of the Northwest Territory, families from New England, New York, and Pennsylvania were pushing westward by boat and by covered wagon. They sought new land on which to settle and build their homes, and dreamed of a day when this wilderness would be populated by a sturdy industrious people.

In 1832, the year of the Black Hawk war, Indian titles to the land, with the exception of a few tribes, were entirely extinguished. This made possible the settlements in Lake County, which began as early as 1834. Wherever there was fertile land, adequate timber for building, fuel and water supply, small settlements were founded. These settlers, at this time, were known as squatters. Soon log cabin homes were built. Then the settlers set about erecting a small school house which served, not only for educational purposes, but also as a meeting house until a more suitable building would be needed.

Several of these communities were growing up in the central and southern parts of Lake County. Since the soil was fertile and deep, these people, who settled these regions, were interested in agriculture. Large groves provided material for their buildings as well as offering protection from the winds that swept over the land.

However, the northern part of the county was not so inviting. It was made up of ridges and sloughs and small lakes. It was a hunter's paradise, and not the kind of land sought by those interested in tilling the soil. Indian villages were scattered along the ridges, hidden from view of the main travelled trails. Here dwelt friendly Indians, happy in the kind of life the land offered. Early travellers and settlers often heard the sound of the drums in the villages as the Indians gathered for their dances.

INDIAN MOVEMENTS THRU THE CALUMET

The most famous Indian Trail in the Calumet District, in the days when the redskins roamed the territory unmolested by the white men, is the present route of the Dunes Highway from Chicago to Fort Wayne and points farther east and north.

Trod by thousands of Indians from all tribes and from all parts of the North American Continent, the trail was worn deep, as it etched its way through swamps, around lakes, over hills and past Indian villages.

A pioneer woman known as Sister Mary Joseph, wrote of one of these great Indian movements. She was visiting a family near what is now Baileytown, when thousands of these Indians, on the march to one of their historic encampments passed the homestead, each dressed in full war regalia and each tribe carrying its totem pole.

The warriors of the tribes, in full force, in stately single file, made a showy pageant. The most brilliant array of savage glory came when the Wisconsin and Minnesota Indians passed by as if arrayed for battle as they made their way to a general encampment near Detroit.

First came the Menomines, then the Winnebagoes and then the Foxes, divided into bands according to their totems and attired in all their bravery. The single file passed in perfect silence and unbroken order, looking neither to right nor to the left. They kept a uniform steady stride, not varying an inch from one another.

The family watched the procession from the verandah of the homestead, when some one said that these were the last of the Foxes and that the Dacotahs would be next. When the women heard this, they went into the house and closed and bolted the heavy shutters. The Dacotahs were said to have no respect for women.

They differed from the eastern Indian who might murder women but would never wrong them. However, the Dacotahs formed the grandest part of the pageant. Their paint was more brilliant, their war bonnets more expensive and their display of arms more unique.

So the women peered from any point of vantage possible and watched the fine stalwart figures, tall, lithe, athletic warriors of most commanding appearance. Each warrior wore an elegant blanket hanging from his shoulders, bow and arrows hung at his back, while his right arm balanced a rifle slung over the shoulder. When the last Dacotah crossed the river and disappeared into the woods, he marked the end of the unbroken line of warriors passing in steady stream for two and one half days.

The land that did not seem so inviting to settlers, but that later came to be known thruout the United States as the Calumet Region because of its many industries, was really a section of the Great Short Cut from the homes of the Chippewas, Iroquois, Sacs, Miamis and Pottawattamis to the land of the Illini and the Sioux.



LaSalle in the Lake Region

This was a land of peace, the Calumet. No matter what might have been the purpose of the journey the Indians made across the Calumet, or Calumic as early maps show it, this was sacred ground and no act of warfare occurred. The old Sauk Trail was a well travelled route across northern Indiana to what is now Joliet, Illinois, where it joined other trails leading to westward. Since so many white people were coming into the region, the Indians, unwillingly, followed this old trail to lands west of the Mississippi where the plains and forests offered better hunting.

Settlements were actually taking root, for the Pottawatamis told of a trading station and mill on Deep River at the time of LaSalle. History does not tell who owned the mill or operated the station.

Rev. Timothy Ball, in his History of Lake County, tells how early pioneers came from Jennings county in the bitter winter of 1835. They came in wagons drawn by oxen, crossing the Kankakee marsh region amidst the cold, fierce freezing winds of that February. The suffering was great because of the bitter cold. Stout hearted as they were, several felt they could not endure the hardships and talked of returning to the land they had left.

But with the warm sunny days of the springtime at hand, they took heart and took up the work of erecting cabins and tilling the land. The harsh bitter winds of the winter had gone. Blue skies, green grass and budding trees, hinted of beauty and peace and the sufferings of the long winter journey were forgotten. The northern part of Lake County abounded in a great variety of trees and flowers which greatly surprised the people. There were the dogwood trees, the aromatic sumac, staghorn, great oaks, flowering locusts, poplars and cottonwoods and groves of pine. Many varieties of lillies, cactus, laurel, wintergreen, bearberry, blueberry, cranberry, roses of all shades and sizes, twelve varieties of violets, ginseng, wild ginger and a number of varieties of orchids were found in profusion. In the spring the spotted trailing arbutus, May flowers, anemones, spring beauties, and dutchman's breeches added to the beauty of the green carpeting. In the fall, asters nodded beside the trails and fringed gentian peeped from its hiding place in the lowlands.

1836 - 1869

On January 28, 1836 Lake County, as a civil division, was founded out of the then existing counties of Porter and Newton. The infant county was attached to Porter County in respect to civil jurisdiction.

By another act of the legislature January 18, 1837, it was declared that Lake should be an independent county after February 15, 1837. The land had been laid out in townships and sections by the United States surveyors in 1834. In 1839 the land was put on the market and a land sale was held at LaPorte, March 19 of that year. The county comprised about five hundred square miles of surface, and of this, about one hundred square miles lay in what is now the Calumet Region.

METHODISM COMES TO LAKE COUNTY

The history of the Methodist Church in Lake County really begins in 1836. Rev. Stephen Jones was sent to the county by the presiding elder of the South Bend district. Rev. Jones preached his first sermon in the log cabin of Thomas Reed, two miles south of Crown Point. Six months later he organized the first Methodist Episcopal class in the home of E. W. Bryant near Pleasant Grove.

In 1837 Lake and Porter counties were called the Deep River Mission, which was in charge of Rev. H. B. Beers. Rev. Beers was succeeded by Rev. Jacob Colclazier in 1838, when the first Quarterly Conference in the county was conducted by Bishop Roberts, in the dwelling of William Payne.

Later in 1838, Rev. Stagg organized the Methodist Episcopal Church in Crown Point, the presiding elder being Dr. Aaron Wood. In 1843 Major Allman became the local preacher, held a great revival throughout the southern part of the county. He was the organizer of the first Methodist Sunday School. Prior to that time, the children attended the long preaching service with their elders. Meetings were held in the log house built by Solon Robinson.

This house also served as the first Court House. So, from these humble beginnings, the Methodist Episcopal Church in Lake County has grown and expanded, until today, it occupies a prominent place in every town and city. The old log structures have been replaced by fine modern buildings where regular services are held and well trained pastors occupy the pulpits.

Other denominations were also getting a foothold in the county. According to Rev. Ball, the Presbyterians and Baptists were establishing schools in the Central and southern parts of the county. However, the predominating growth seemed to be that of the Methodist church.

In 1843, the railroad, now known as the Michigan Central, had been built connecting the rapidly growing cities of Detroit and Chicago. A number of families taking advantage of cheap land were coming into northern Lake County and becoming quite well established. Rev. Ball says that there were five church buildings in the county in 1847; seven post offices, about 50 frame or log houses, two brick dwellings and four or five stores. There were five local preachers, one circuit preacher and one Presbyterian pastor. There were two lawyers, six or seven physicians, fifteen justices of the peace. There were two saloons. There was one village and Crown Point boasted about thirty families.

THE HOHMAN SETTLEMENT

The Ernest Hohmans came into the region in the summer of 1850. They had operated a small tailor shop in Chicago, but had been obliged to leave because of a cholera epidemic. Their destination was Crown Point, which they reached in four days, passing thru what later became Hammond. On their return in the fall, they stopped at an

old cabin on the north bank of the Calumet River. This was on the land now occupied by the Simplex Works of the American Steel Foundry.

Mr. Hohman was impressed with the country in spite of the wilderness. He had always wanted land and a home of his own. Here he saw in the abandoned cabin and the high ground surrounding it, the opportunity he desired. He purchased this plot of ground for \$25.00 and moved in, in the spring of 1857. The Hohmans set up a tavern for the few travelers who passed that way. They were able to eke out a living by selling liquors and food to trappers and travelers. But it was not long until the tavern became known for its tasty meals and its intelligent owner.

As time went on, the Hohmans had accumulated considerable land, some 800 acres. Here they built a large log house, that not only housed the large family, but served as a stopping place for farmers making trips from the southern part of the county to the markets in Chicago.

A scattered settlement had grown up and for a time was known as Hohman's Bridge. The Sohl and Drackert families, the Mullens, Goodmans and Ahlendorfs had found homes near by. The Sohls set up a general store on the old Michigan City Road (Michigan St.) where it served the settlers.

In what is known today as the Hessville district, were the Hess, Wolf, Miller, Goodman, and Ousley families. Here at various times, attempts had been made to establish some sort of religious gatherings. These meetings depended upon the coming of the circuit riders or some visiting student pastor. Roads were bad much of the time, the settlers did not have much money and so could not afford to pay much of a salary to a pastor. Under such conditions, no young student considered this a golden opportunity and looked elsewhere for a better field. The meetings were held in the Hessville school house and were well attended when roads were passable and weather permitted.

In 1863, the community boasted twelve families who had taken up permanent homes. The scattered cabins were linked together by dirt trails along the higher ground.

THE FIRST SCHOOL

That year Ernest Hohman called the settlers together to determine what could be done about educating the children. They were unanimous in their decision to build a schoolhouse and employ a teacher. The salary was to be \$20.00 per month, to be paid by the families sending children to the school. The Hohmans had three children, the Goodmans three, the Sohls two and the Drackerts two, making ten children of school age. Workers from each family helped and soon the rough building which stood near what is now Wilcox St., on Hohman Road, was ready. It was heated by a huge stove. One of the settlers built the fire each morning and thru the day, it was kept going by the teacher or pupils.

The first teacher was Miss Amanda Koontz. The school term was set at sixty days because the pupils could not be spared from their work at home, for longer than the winter months. Miss Koontz did not find the work easy. The pupils were ill behaved and unruly and did not care much about studying anyway. The salary was so small that it provided for only meager existence. So Miss Koontz was very glad when the school term came to a close. She handed her resignation to the villagers on the closing day and bade farewell to the little school on Hohman Road.

Miss Mary Lohse taught the school the next two years, 1864-65. Conditions had improved somewhat and a few more dollars had been added to the salary. Then a Mr. Smith took up the work in 1866. But at the end of his first term, he declared the task too arduous and the salary too small. He also informed the villagers that he did not like the community anyway, and so he, too, sought employment elsewhere.

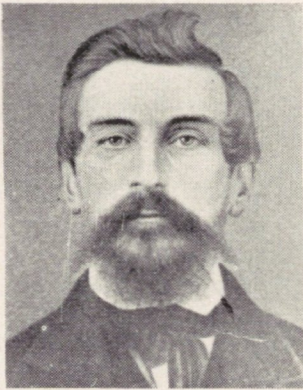
The settlers were very much concerned over the outcome of their attempts to provide a school and training in the three R's. This time, when they were to employ a new teacher, they scanned application after application. Many were discarded as they judged the applicant unsuitable for the difficult position. Finally they decided upon Miss Louise Dutton who, indeed, proved herself well able to cope with the situation. Miss Louisa Sohl (Mrs. J. M. Beall) taught for two winters, 1868-70. Miss Teed followed and taught the year of 1870-71. She was followed by D. McKinney but returned and taught the two succeeding years, 1872-74. Miss Mary Harper took over the work for the year 1874-75. This marked the last year in the little red school house near the river.

A NEW TOWN PLATTED

In 1865 this growing settlement along the Calumet River and the Michigan Central Railroad, took on the name of State Line or State Line Crossing. Trains slowed down but scarcely came to a full stop to permit passengers to alight. Here a group of men, M. M. Towle, Geo. H. Hammond and Caleb Ives, interested in finding a site for their meat packing business, came from Detroit and selected land along the Calumet River and the Indiana State Line. That same year Mr. Towle purchased sixteen acres of land from A. Goodrich, which he later platted as Blocks 1 and 2 of the original town of Hammond.

In September 1868 three cars of lumber on the Michigan Central were stopped at Hohman Road. The train was held while the lumber was unloaded and slid down the embankment along the tracks. According to C. D. Bostwick, who was an engineer on the Michigan Central in an early day and pulled many of the immigrant trains from Detroit to Chicago, the road itself, when completed, had been built on trestle work from just west of Michigan City to Kensington, Illinois. Rainy weather made an ordinary road bed unsafe as so much of the land was swamp.

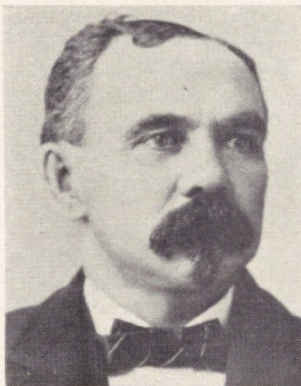
Carpenters were brought from Chicago and from Detroit. Any man who applied, was given work. All houses were pressed into service as boarding houses. The large log house of the Hohmans accommodated twelve boarders



Ernest Hohman
Founder of Hammond



Caroline Hohman
who, with her husband,
helped found the little set-
tlement that later grew
into the City of Hammond.



M. M. Towle, Sr.
One of the organizers of
the G. H. Hammond Co.
First Sunday School
Superintendent

regularly besides the family. Thomas Phillips, H. A. Green, Leonard Phillips and M. G. Bassin bought lots and built on Plummer St.

1869-1882

In 1869 ice houses and slaughter houses had been built on the land earlier selected by M. M. Towle, Geo. H. Hammond, and Caleb Ives. At this time, Gibson three miles east of the new village, handled all freight billings, was the nearest telegraph station and Post Office for the region. At one time Gibson had been the western terminus of the Michigan Central. There had once been a hotel, eating house, station, a long line of side track, a pumping station and tank, several residences and a post office, all traces of which were removed long ago. In the early days of the Michigan Central, 1834, stage coaches carried passengers, going west from Gibson, along the old Indian Trail which crossed the river by ferry at the present Hohman bridge and followed the ridge thru what is now Hegewisch and on to Chicago.

Mr. Towle had now purchased five more acres of land from Mrs. Hohman and plotted Block 3. The new settlement had taken the name of State Line and the packing company became known as the G. H. Hammond Company. When Mr. Towle plotted the original town, he was interested solely in providing homes for the men coming to work in the new industry. Lots were sold at \$200.00 per fifty feet and money was loaned to build houses. These loans were to be repaid in monthly installments averaging \$10.00 per month.

The demand for lumber became so great that a dock was built along the north bank of the Calumet, where the lumber boats were unloaded. These boats were towed fourteen miles up the river from South Chicago. But the coming of the Atlantic and Pacific Railroad, now the Erie, and the Pittsburgh, Fort Wayne and Chicago, caused shipping by water to be abandoned in 1838 as it proved to be too expensive.

The meat packing industry grew rapidly, for in 1868 the railroads had produced the new Davis refrigerator cars. It had been proved that meat could be packed in the iced cars here and shipped to New York or Boston, where it could be repacked for shipment to foreign markets.

FIRST ATTEMPTS TOWARD RELIGIOUS TRAINING

It is said that the need for more money to slaughter more cattle actually marked the beginning of Hammond's religious development back in the hurly-burly packing house days. The owners of this company worked the men seven days a week, but refused to pay for the Sabbath labor.

The great need for more capital to help further the development of their plant caused them to contact William Botsford, a Massachusetts capitalist and religious zealot. Hearing that the packing house employees had been forced to work on Sunday and without pay, he refused to consider any further negotiations saying, "I will not sell the souls of my workmen to make money." Finally the owners of the packing house gave in, since their need was so great. Sunday thereafter, was to be a day of rest and religious communion.

A small store had been opened in 1873. This became the post office and officially grew into the great general store of the M. M. Towle Co. At first the post office was named State Line. M. M. Towle was named post master and Miss Anna Dow who had a half interest in the store, attended to the post office department also. After a great deal of trouble caused by confusing State Line, Indiana with State Line, Illinois, Mr. Towle got up a petition which he sent to Washington, asking to have the name of the town changed to Hammond. This was done in 1873 and so the town took on its new name.

EARLY SUNDAY SCHOOL

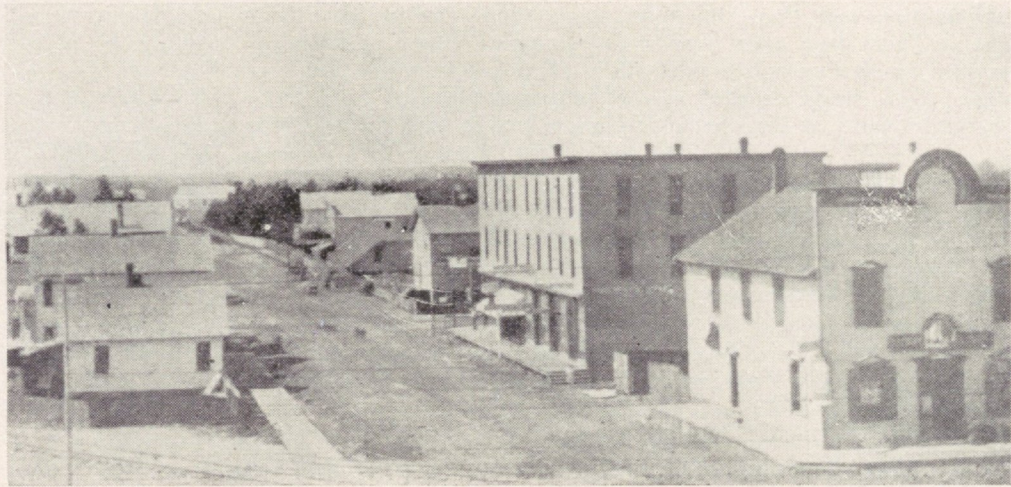
Up to 1871-72 several attempts had been made to organize Sunday Schools, which met in the homes of various villagers. But a lack of leadership and definite planning caused the project to be abandoned except in the Hessville district.

The new capital and extended operations of the meat industry brought in a number of new people from Massachusetts. Feeling the need for the religious and cultural gatherings to which they had been accustomed in their former homes, they at once took up the problem here. In 1872 the organization of a Sunday School was attempted. The people met in the red school house which stood near the river on Hohman Road. The following officers were elected, M. M. Towle, Supt.; Mrs. C. C. Smith (Miss Dow), Secretary; Mrs. Louisa M. Beall, Treasurer. Mrs. M. M. Towle taught the Primary classes. Services were conducted regularly for a period of three years, by Rev. Williams. Rev. Williams lived on a farm not far from Hammond and volunteered to go to Evanston to school to study and prepare himself for this new work.

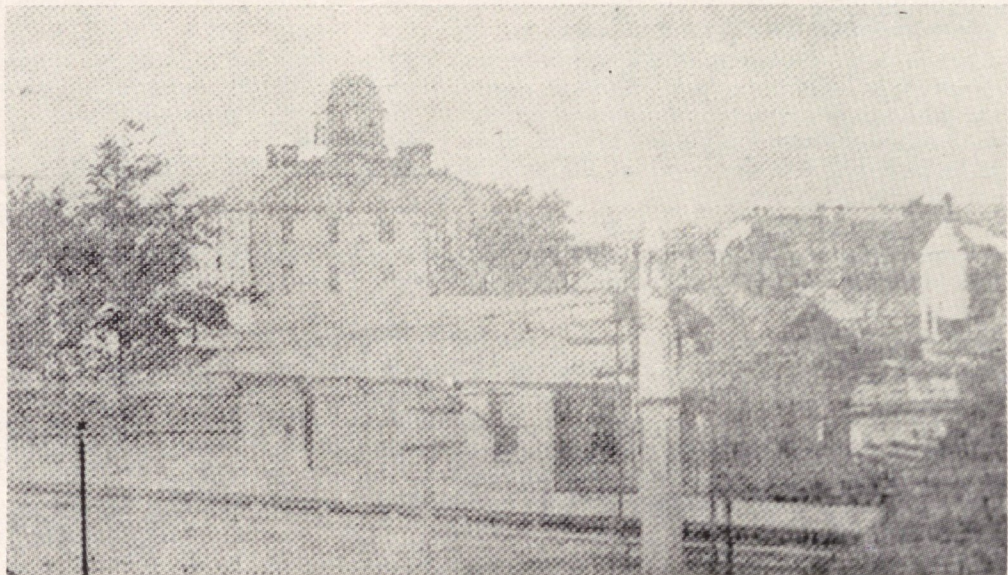
With the establishment of a Sunday School and church organization in the new town, the people in Hessville no longer attempted to hold services locally, but joined the new group and became faithful and efficient workers there.

Since the greater number of these people were Methodists, the organization was known as the Methodist Church and Sunday School. Altho there were many now, who were followers of different faiths, they felt their number insufficient to influence them in establishing their own particular groups. Rev. Baker coming from Evanston served during 1875-76.

Thus Methodism was established in Hammond and these early leaders were the same people who later carried on the work in Methodism when other church groups began to organize. Rev. Baker was succeeded by Rev. Stewart in 1877-78.



Hohman Street business section, south from the Monon Railroad. 1883



View from roof of old Erie Hotel, showing the square block school building and Monon Station in foreground, 1886.

In 1875 a new frame school building had been built just south of where the old City Hall stood, and about one hundred feet east of Hohman Road on Indiana Street. Just the upper story of the new building had been completed when, in the fall of 1875, Miss Alice Sohl opened the school. In the course of years, the village had grown slowly but that year there were sixty-eight pupils enrolled. The salary had been increased to \$35.00 per month and the school term had been lengthened to eight months. So Miss Sohl continued her work in the new school until the close of the term in 1878. In 1878 A. A. Winslow came to Hammond and took over the school. The downstairs room had been finished and Miss Alice Webster became the teacher. The next year Dr. Forsythe and Miss Webster carried on the work.

The Winslows were deeply interested in the new Sunday School and immediately found a place in the church work. Mrs. Winslow was an able singer and her beautiful singing came to be a regular part of the church service. Rev. Stewart served the little church in 1878 and 1879 when services were abandoned.

In 1879 Porter B. Towle, newspaper editor and publisher, had come to Hammond from Massachusetts. He took an active interest in the Sunday School serving at one time as superintendent and teacher. He also gave literary and moral lectures during the time when services were abandoned.

But in 1880 a room in an adjoining building to the new frame school house, had been rented where Miss Webster taught the primary room. A. A. Winslow was back in the school room and he and Miss Helen Winslow taught the other grades in the other building.

THE METHODIST CHURCH CHARTERED

In 1881 Rev. S. E. Vinal came to be the minister and services were resumed. On March 25, 1882 the Methodist Episcopal Church of Hammond was organized and chartered. There were twenty-six members and ten probationers. The pastor's salary was \$200.00 per year. The following officers were elected:

Trustees: James N. Young, A. A. Winslow, G. B. P. Newman, B. B. Glazier, Louis Hohman.

Stewards: W. M. Guthrie, David Nason, Samuel Tinsman, A. F. Robinson, M. V. Swartwood, B. B. Glazier, Louis Hohman.

Services were held in Centennial Hall at the corner of Plummer and Hohman Streets. But the sermons and anthems were often interrupted by the click of the billiard balls and loud laughter and talk of the players in an adjoining room. Feeling they could no longer endure holding their church services under such uninviting conditions, these good people set to work to see what might be done about obtaining a building of their own.

M. M. Towle, civic minded, eager and able to improve conditions that might make the new town more inviting to prospective home owners and workers for the Packing Company, gave to the Methodist Society, an acre of ground at the Northeast corner of Hohman and Russell Streets. This ground was to be used for church purposes only. Thru the generosity of the good people of the town the little chapel was built.

The little building was the only Protestant church in the region at the time. It served not only as a meeting place for religious activities, but was also the center of all social activities. Miss Agnes Dyer, later Mrs. Jaquish, a sister of Mrs. A. A. Winslow, organized a Ladies Aid Society. These good women worked long and faithfully to raise funds to support the church.

Rev. Vinal was succeeded by Rev. Wm. Crapp in September, 1882. Rev. Crapp was the first resident minister.

A NEW CHURCH IS BUILT

The little chapel had become too small and again a way must be found to provide a church building that would assure them of ample space for some time, for this growing congregation.

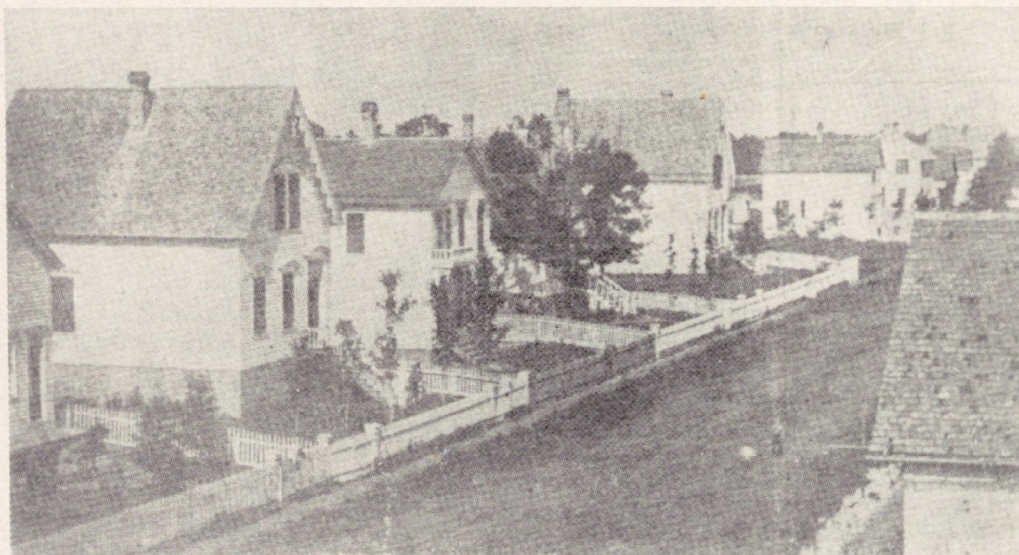
Hammond was now rapidly taking on the aspects of a growing town. The people on the Official Board felt that the corner they occupied would not be a satisfactory place for the building of the new church. Some said, "Hammond may continue to grow considerably. There might even be street cars on Hohman Street, making it far too noisy for the conduction of church services."

This decision later proved to be a great error on the part of the officials of the church, for as time went on, this corner became very valuable. Street cars came and departed. Busses and automobiles throng the street, which at that time knew only horse drawn vehicles, board sidewalks and no pavements. On the corner where the Methodist Episcopal church should have stood as a monument to the foresightedness of its official family, stands the Northern Indiana Public Service building, hiding from view of those travelling Hohman Avenue, the present beautiful structure of our house of worship.

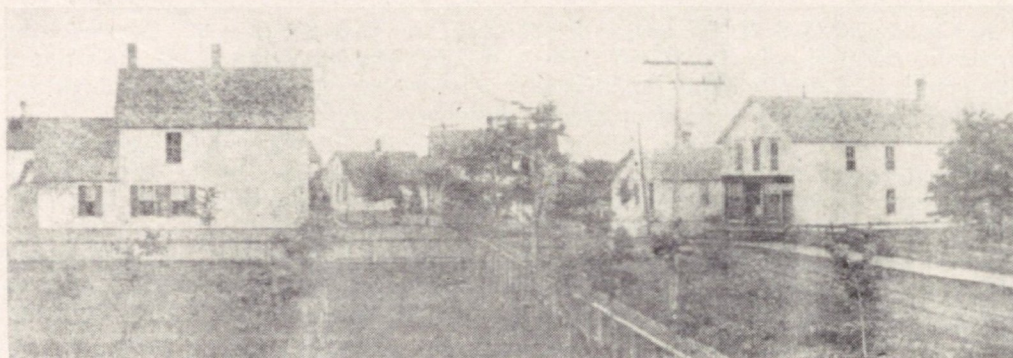
So it was decided, that another location be selected and the present site 50 ft. by 246 ft. was purchased in 1882 from Marcus M. Towle and Irena S. Towle at a cost of \$500.00. This was lot 9 in the Latham addition to the town of Hammond. Plans were immediately made to begin the erection of the frame church which was dedicated in October 1883.

1883 - 1907

Nevertheless, M. M. Towle, tho not a member of the church, continued his generous giving. According to Conference Minutes of that year, he provided a large sum, which made possible the construction of a larger building. Serving on the Official Board at this time were:



Ives Street (West State Street) 1886



Hohman Street 1886 — First General Store



Mrs. Mary Van DeWalker,
known to early settlers as
"Auntie"

J. C. Lewis, P. M. Hann, Miss Agnes Dyer, Miss Alice Sohl, E. A. Andrew, J. B. Guthrie, W. C. Belman, Mrs. J. W. Drake, P. H. Herald, Miss Helen Winslow, Leslie English, Mrs. M. M. Towle, Miss Linnie Ousley, Wm. Goodman, A. A. Winslow, and Mrs. A. A. Winslow.

How proud the people were when they began holding services in the new church! Many, today, remember the white frame building with its tall spire and clear sounding bell calling the people to service, and again its solemn tones tolling the death of some departed member.

The auditorium was rectangular in shape, the pulpit and choir loft occupying the central part of the north end of the room. The entrance was at the southwest corner, fronting on Russell Street. Here one entered a square hall in which dangled the rope attached to the bell in the belfry above. Besides the door leading into the church proper, there was another door leading from this hall into a small room, which was also separated from the larger room, by several folding doors. These doors could be pushed back to accommodate overflow crowds. This room was known as the Primary Room when during the Sunday School hour, the little folks met with their teacher, Miss Alice Sohl. In the evening it afforded a meeting place for the Young People's Society, then known as the Christian Endeavor.

The building was heated by two large stoves with great jackets around them. One stood near the doors in the southwest corner and the other in the northeast corner.

Three steps led to the pulpit on the east and west sides. The pulpit platform and aisles were covered by a beautiful red carpet that had been given by Mrs. Hohman at the time of the marriage of her son, Louis, to Miss Emma Mott, when Rev. E. A. Schell was the pastor. This was the first couple to be married in the new church.

There were three aisles leading to the pews, one center aisle and one on the east side and one on the west side. The two great sections of pews were each divided by a partition into two sections. The seats had been varnished by J. M. Bradford and his painters. In those days, varnish did not possess quick drying qualities. Mr. Bradford was greatly worried fearing the seats would not be ready for the coming Sunday services or that the ladies' dresses might be soiled by sticking to the newly varnished seats.

But all went well, the varnish dried with a bright hard surface. However, Mrs. Wm. Bardens, who was a teacher in the local schools at that time as well as in the Sunday School, recently remarked that when the hot days of summer came, those seats were "always sticky". In order that the congregation might enjoy the greatest comfort, as it listened to the long sermons, M. M. Towle had provided heavy red cushions for the pews.

The beautiful pulpit lamps had been purchased from a fund made up of nickels collected by the Sunday School children. The child collecting the greatest sum was to have the honor of lighting the new lamps. The children worked hard and soon there was money enough to make the purchase. Two little girls, Gracie Miller and Birdie Bradford (Mrs. David Perry) were the winners. How proud they were when they were held up to light the lamps that made the pulpit such an inviting place. Joyously the bell pealed forth at 10 o'clock each Sunday morning calling the people to worship. Services began at 10:30, following the class meetings at 9:30 o'clock. Sunday School was at 2 p. m. The young people met at 6:30 and evening services at 7:30. Sunday was indeed a busy day but all services were well attended.

Great hanging lamps, burning kerosene, lighted the church for the evening services. They were always a great source of interest to the children as the janitor lowered them to be lighted and then raised them again to their proper place.

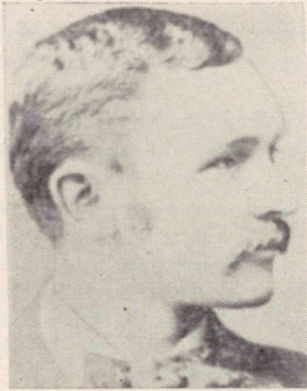
On the east wall hung a large clock, ticking off the minutes of the various services. Children solemnly watched the hands as they crept toward the closing time; anxious for dismissal, yet fearing that the minister or the Sunday School Superintendent might not read the time correctly thus keeping them in their places a little longer than the specified time.

HAMMOND'S FIRST NEWSPAPER

When A. A. Winslow left the school room in 1881, he began the publishing of the Western Indiana Tribune. In 1883 he had an eight page issue circulating in Hobart, Crown Point, Matteson and Thornton as well as in Hammond. At first the paper was issued on Thursday of each week. How different it was from the newspapers of today! The front page was given over to railroad time tables, display and classified advertisements and a small amount of personal news. Two physicians, Dr. J. L. Miller and Dr. J. Gilbert Van De Walker ran ads on the front page. Insurance and real estate advertising filled the pages. A young attorney, Donald McDonald, sought to increase his business through ads. Some times on the front page one might find a column of news adjoining a column of advice as "Advice to Mother" and "Home News". Then "Chicago Markets", "Educational Column" and "Business Notes" vied with one another for the reader's attention.

The advertisements were uninteresting, just plain and unadorned. Most of them told of the wonders of certain patent medicines and probably the back page would carry the announcement of a coming circus, many more times wonderful than ever.

In the issue of Sept. 13, 1883 was the story of the wedding of Louis Hohman and Miss Emma Mott at the Methodist Church. Henry Sohl "ushered in the bride and groom" and Fred Mott was the "Groomsman". In the flowery language of the day, the description of the bride was really a masterpiece. It said that she was appropriately



Rev. E. A. Schell, D.D.
1883 - 1886



The Old Frame Church



Rev. S. P. Edmondson
1886 - 1889

and becomingly dressed, in a handsome brocade satin, long white veil gracefully looped with the traditional orange blossom. To say she was beautiful, would not be doing justice, in fact, the editor felt sure that "many a sorrowful bachelor envied the happy groom".

Then another item told of the notorious Missouri bandit, Jesse James, who had been acquitted the week before of a charge of murder but soon would be tried again on another murder charge. There was an item also telling that the packing plant was now shipping meat to Europe. Another item told of a "fist fight for a large purse at Tolleston".

In 1888 James B. Wood started the Hammond Independent. It was decidedly controlled by the M. M. Towle interests. The Independent managed to struggle along somehow, until 1900 when it was taken over by S. E. Swaim, who began publishing the Hammond Daily News. Mr. Swaim later took over the Standard, which had been published sporadically during the 90's. The Hammond Times was unheard of as it did not enter the picture until 1906. But it soon outshone the other sheets and became Hammond's only newspaper.

CENTRAL SCHOOL

M. M. Towle had become the school trustee and during the year 1881-82 he had a new building erected at the South-east corner of Hohman and Fayette Streets. The new building was two stories high and contained eight rooms, four of which were finished at the time. Here in the autumn of 1882 Miss Agnes Dyer as principal, Helen Winslow, Emma Mott and Alice Webster opened the school in what became the Central School. Floyd Truax was appointed principal in 1882, but resigned in February 1883 and D. McKinney was appointed to finish the term.

During the summer of 1883, the trustee had the remainder of the building completed. W. C. Belman became the new principal and with the following teachers: Cynthia Wood, Nettie Smith, Linnie Ousley, Mary Dunn, Mary Welsh, and Madaline Liable, began the task of developing a system of graded schools.

This was the old square building with the great dome and the outside stairs. Its great bell called the young folks to hasten along lest they be late for classes. Such an offense meant a visit to the principal's office and was not looked upon with any degree of favor.

1883 - 1886 REV. E. A. SCHELL

Rev. E. A. Schell served as the pastor from 1883 to 1886. Mrs. C. C. Smith was the president of the Ladies Aid. She was a good promoter and so was able to raise the funds for financing the undertakings of the Society. Mrs. Thos. Hammond, Mrs. W. H. Gostlin, Mrs. W. C. Belman and Mrs. Hiram Hall were very efficient and this group "really ran the town from a religious standpoint" according to Rev. Schell.

Mr. A. A. Winslow was the superintendent of a lively Sunday School where there were classes for all. Miss Carrie Hammond (Mrs. W. A. Hill) served as the Sunday School Secretary. Grouped around the stove in the north-east corner was a class of boys taught by Mrs. Etta Dake. As these boys grew older the same gracious lady continued as their teacher. For a number of years this continued as a popular Sunday School Class for the young men of the town. Mrs. Dake not only taught this well known class but also served as the Sunday School treasurer for over twenty years.

In the opposite corner, across from Mrs. Dake's class was the Bible Class conducted by W. C. Belman. Mr. Belman kept a sharp eye on the squirming youngsters in the other classes of the Sunday School also. As these youngsters had great respect for his disciplinary ability, they too, kept an eye on him. Should he glance in their direction, he was sure to see no sign of mischief on their faces.

Serving as stewards on the Official Board were Messers. Belman, Nason, and Winslow, but Mrs. Winslow, Mrs. Blackwood, and Mrs. Dake were the real collectors. Mrs. M. M. Towle was the financial backer and during the time when it was so hard to raise funds she came to the rescue, so that the pastor might take a good report with him when he went to Conference.

There was a very lively choir. It was conducted by W. H. Goodman, who was well known for his pleasing voice. For some time Miss Cynthia Wood (Mrs. Henry Sohl) served as the organist.

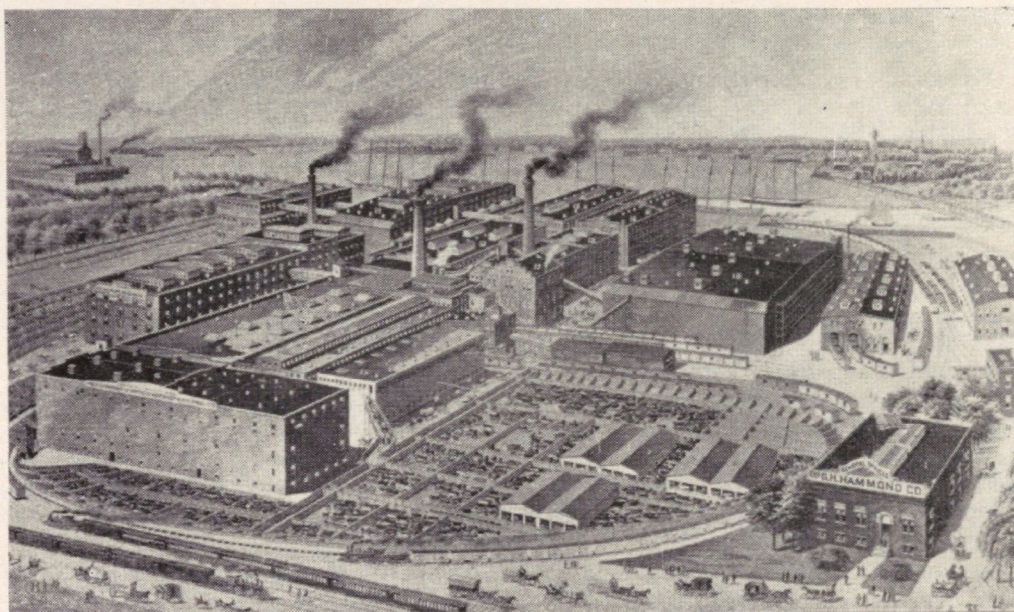
Rev. Schell had invited the District Preachers to hold their meeting in the new church. The Board was greatly worried, as the acoustics of the church were abominable and it was difficult for speakers to be heard. Some one suggested that fine wires be strung thru the church. This was done. The meeting was held and was a great success. The choir was especially complimented for its beautiful program of songs and anthems.

At the time Rev. Schell began his pastorate, Hammond had a population of 3700. There was only one Protestant Church, the Methodist Episcopal. St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church had been built on the Southwest corner of Hohman and Russell Streets on ground given them by Mrs. Hohman. Rev. H. M. Plaster was the resident priest.

Rev. Schell in a letter to Mr. Theo. Moor, written in 1931 said that he "no doubt preached several people straight to perdition, not knowing the better way". Funeral services and weddings were a great part of his work. Friends insisted upon elaborate and lengthy funeral services, regardless of the life of the departed. Rev. Plaster, according to the teachings of the Catholic Church, could bury only those who had some claim upon him. Hence the greater part of this work fell upon Rev. Schell.

But toward the latter part of his pastorate, so many people favoring other denominations had come to Hammond and they began organizing their own particular groups. Some of them met in homes until they were able to

SCENES FROM EARLY "PACKING HOUSE DAYS"



G. H. Hammond Company's Plant. Covers Thirty Acres

SCENES FROM EARLY "PACKING HOUSE DAYS"



OFFICE FORCE

Front—left to right: Charles Kasson, Asst. Supt.; Simon F. Fogg, Supt.; David Fenton, John E. Wolf
 Rear: (1) Not known, (2) Emil Fischer, (3) O. C. E. Matthies, (4) A. H. Stebbins, (5) Ralph E. Spencer.

SCENES FROM EARLY "PACKING HOUSE DAYS"



CONSTRUCTION DEPARTMENT

First row: 4. Simon Fogg, 5. William Kleighe Sr.

Third row: 3. Jacob Kasper, 5. Chas. Sweiger

Fourth row: 2. Oscar Whitton, 3. Clinton Mead.



TRIPE DEPARTMENT

SCENES FROM EARLY "PACKING HOUSE DAYS"



DEPARTMENT LEADERS

Front row: 1. Fred Gescheidler, 3. Simon F. Fogg, Supt.; 4. John Haney
 Second row: 2. Patrick Riley, 3. William Kleihege, Sr., 4. Charles Miller, 5. Charles
 Dreben
 Rear: William Goodman, 4. George Randolph.



LARD REFINERY

SCENES FROM EARLY "PACKING HOUSE DAYS"



CATTLE BUTCHERS

Front row: 1. J. Morton, 4. W. H. Goodman, 5. Simon Fogg, 6. 7, 8, and 9 were called "knockers"

Second row: 7. Thos. Smith, 8. Thos. Gore

Third row: 7. Otto Morbeck

Fourth row: 9. J. Mahoney

find a more suitable place. So the Baptists, the Episcopal, Phymouth Congregational and Christian people formed their own congregations. This relieved Rev. Schell of much of his burden, altho their leaving was keenly felt in the Methodist Congregation.

One event of particular importance during these years was the installation of a telephone in the drug store of Tony Schacher on Hohman Street. This was a single line phone and served for the entire community.

THE CARRIAGE FACTORY

Another flourishing industry, a carriage factory had been built in Hammond on the north side of the river. Many of these people, connected with it, were active workers in the Methodist Church. Among these were Mr. and Mrs. D. W. Miller and their son, Clifford. They were musicians and took an active part in the choir.

But a disastrous fire, January 1889, destroyed this factory and the owners decided not to rebuild here. This was a decided blow to the church as so many of its devout and well paying members moved away. But the women of the Ladies Aid, along with Mrs. Towle, came to the rescue and the church was able to meet its obligations.

Not enough can be said of these women who gave their time and energy to help this early church. Whenever sickness or sorrow had entered a home, there was kindly Mrs. Van De Walker to help. Many times when her husband, Dr. Van De Walker, was busy where other cases of illness prevailed, she would go and do what she could to help until the doctor came. So she was known everywhere as "Auntie". The young ministers who had come to serve our early church truly found her their "good angel." Her home was always open to them and she made them welcome until they were able to find permanent quarters.

SUNDAY SCHOOL ENTERTAINMENTS

Perhaps of all the children's teachers, the best loved was Miss Alice Sohl. She loved them and fully realized that along with the more serious teachings of the church, the children needed good wholesome fun. So it was always a delight to be asked to take part in some of the Sunday School programs for Easter, Children's Day, or Christmas, knowing this meant that after practice on Friday afternoon, at Miss Sohl's home, there would always be something in the way of games and a treat. No doubt the latter was a big factor in getting the children interested. But the parents took great pride in their children's efforts. Long before the time set for the program to begin, the church was filled with admiring friends and relatives who had come to listen to the piping voices of these young folk as they sang their songs and gave their recitations.

Probably the greatest celebration of all was that of the Christmas time. A great tree, beautifully decorated stood on the pulpit platform. Hanging from its branches and clustered about the base, was a host of gifts that had been brought by loving parents and friends. Of course, Santa Claus made his appearance, must to the delight of the tiny folk, and in a jovial voice, read off the names of those fortunate enough to have a gift there. The Sunday School treat of candy, an apple or an orange, was always left until after the program. Maybe some did not fare as well as others, but these good people, Mrs. Belman, Mrs. Winslow, Miss Sohl, Mrs. Beall, Mrs. Dake and Mrs. Towle, were always sure that no child, attending Sunday School, went home without a gift of some sort. As the crowd left the brightly lighted church, happy voices rang out on the frosty air, wishing one and all a "Very Merry Christmas".

HAMMOND BECOMES LAW ABIDING

Hammond had begun to establish itself as a real town and there was a feeling of permanence in the hearts of the people. True, many of the men employed in the Meat Packing Industry were inclined to be rowdy and boisterous. The growing number of saloons offered companionship and entertainment. A. L. Walker had been appointed the town's first marshall. Because of his fearlessness and fairmindedness, he early drew the respect of the people. When not out seeking the culprit in some form of law breaking, he could be found in his office, a little shack which stood near the corner of Morton Court and Plummer Avenue. Part of this frame building was used as a jail also. If the prisoner were a more desperate character he was taken to Crown Point where he was confined in the County jail, a building whose walls were much stronger.

1886 - 1889 REV. S. B. EDMONSTON

In 1886-89 Rev. Edmonston came to serve as the pastor, making his home with Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Winslow and the Corwins. Rev. Edmonston was a tireless worker and soon became very popular in the community. He was also continuing his studies in Evanston. This, along with the demands that were made upon his time, made the work very tiring. So as his health failed, he found it necessary to leave the work and the people he had come to love so well. Rev. Edmonston passed away a few years after he gave up his work in Hammond.

REMINISCENCE

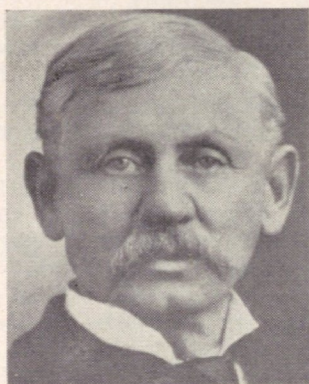
Mrs. Wm. Bardens who, when a young woman and a teacher in the local schools also taught a class in the Methodist Sunday School, only recently was talking of some of the things that happened in these early days, and told how the funds were raised to provide for the annual Sunday School treat. She had been selected as one of the members of the committee to solicit funds. Wages were not very high and people with growing families did not have much extra money to give. Her collection was small and she was feeling rather depressed, when she met one of her former neighbors. Knowing the man quite well she felt free to ask his help altho she knew he was not a church man. He told her to follow him and he would see that she obtained a plentiful sum. So she went along, entering one



Mrs. Louisa Beall, charter member of early Methodist Church, 1872



Miss Alice Sohl, Charter Member and Teacher of large primary class in the Sunday School



Stephen A. Ripley



Rev. G. R. Streeter
1889 - 1893



Mrs. Stephen A. Ripley



Rev. Arthur H. DeLong
1893 - 1895



Rev. Eli P. Bennett
1895 - 1897

saloon after another. Can any of you today imagine how this young woman felt as she demurely followed her former neighbor? But the cause was good and she was determined to secure the money. Wherever she went, the reason for her visit was explained. Bartenders each gave a dollar, quite a sum in those days, and others contributed smaller amounts.

However, when she turned in the money, she had a greater amount than all the others together. Rev. Edmonston felt she had done more than her share not only because of the sum collected, but because she had been brave enough to enter these places knowing full well the attitude of the people toward women who entered saloons.

It was decided that the funds be turned over to one of the officers of the school to make the purchase. This man was a business man well known for his close dealing, but he could drive a bargain well. However, he did not take into consideration the quality of the treat but set out to procure the greatest amount for the least money. The purchase was made and the candy delivered at the church. The committee, who had charge of the treat, were very happy for they felt that there had been sufficient money to provide a nice treat for each child in the Sunday School. How disappointed they were when the containers were opened! Only a small part of the money had been spent and they were so chagrined when they saw the cheap merchandise. Money had been more important than the happiness of the children.

However, Rev. Edmonston would not permit funds that had been collected for this particular purpose, to be diverted to other church expenses. Taking the remaining money, he himself went about the town purchasing the best candy he could find. This was mixed with the cheaper grade. That Christmas was long remembered by the children, who through the penuriousness of one man and the understanding thoughtfulness of a young teacher and their pastor, received a bounteous treat.

In 1887 the High School which had been organized in 1884 with but a few pupils, graduated its first class; three young women, Clara Mashino, Julia Porlier, and Edna Smith, and in 1888 two young women, Miss Belle Guthrie (Mrs. Wm. Bardens) and Miss Carrie Hammond (Mrs. W. A. Hill) were graduated.

1889 - 1893

Rev. G. R. Streeter and his family came to Hammond in 1889 to take up the work after Rev. Edmonston. At this time, the church did not have a parsonage suitable for the family. The little chapel had been moved to the lot east of the church and was intended to be used as a parsonage, but Rev. Schell and Rev. Edmonston had no need for it and so it had been rented. The Streeter family had come from Attica, Indiana, where they had occupied a commodious brick house and were at a loss to know what to do with furnishings they brought with them. Finally the official board secured one of the Bradford cottages on Douglas Street. The family moved in but was obliged to store much of the furniture, hoping ere long to find a larger house.

At this time there were no paved streets in Hammond, no sewers, few street lamps and board walks were built on whatever level suited the owner. There were many heavy rains and water stood everywhere. People living in the Clinton, Douglas and Ogden Street areas were often obliged to use a boat to get to town for groceries and mail. So it was necessary to ask Mr. Bradford to put in posts to which the walk from the parsonage was tied or anchored, so it would not float away, but would provide a way for the pastor's family to get out to the street. Later Rev. Streeter purchased a lot on Ogden Street and built the house he occupied at the time of his death in 1944 and where his daughter, Mrs. Ethel Holway, now lives.

Rev. Streeter found a very active church family anxious to go along with the plans of the new pastor. Because of the newness of some of the churches, the pastors were very anxious to build up their various congregations and so were among the first callers upon newcomers to the town. New arrivals were scarcely settled in their homes before the pastors came to invite them to attend their services and the children to enroll in the Sunday School. Rev. Streeter, somehow, was generally the first pastor to call.

As many recall him, they remember that he was a very dressy man, very particular about his appearance. He was commonly known as the "dude of the conference". And so it was not unusual, when he went calling to see him hurrying along, wearing that tall silk hat and proudly carrying the gold headed cane, which had been a gift to him from his former parishoners at Attica.

The officers of the Sunday School were:

Superintendent—W. C. Belman

Assistant Superintendent—F. H. Tuthill

Secretary—A. A. Winslow

Assistant Secretary—Miss Belle Weed

Assistant Treasurer—Miss Flora Wakefield

Treasurer—Mrs Etta Dake

Librarians—Miss Ida Fisher and J. W. Reed

Teachers—Rev. Streeter, Mrs. G. R. Streeter, Mrs. Frank Nason, Miss Luna Freeland, Miss Kate Weed, Mrs. Freemont Nason, Miss Luella Parks, Mrs. E. Hunt, Mrs. J. H. Beall, Mrs. D. C. Mead, Mrs. Sarah Daggett, Miss Jessie Hunt, Mr. E. Hunt, Mr. Kiersey, Mr. N. Parker, Miss Allie Johnson, Mrs. Carrie Parker, Mrs. H. W. Sohl, Mrs. J. W. Dake, Miss Alice Sohl.

Advertisements of long ago

The m. m. Towle Co.
 ... Full Line of ...
...Groceries,
 CHOICE CUTS MEATS,
 VEGETABLES, ...
 CANNED MEATS, WITH
BAKERY
 attached, as
 Fruits, Confectionery,
 Toilet Articles,
 and Stationery
 Our Prices are Low,
 AND
**GOODS DELIVERED
 PROMPTLY.**
 Central Block, Hammond, Ind.

CITY PHARMACY
 Griffin & Krinbill.
 THE ...
 Leading
 Druggists.
PURE DRUGS
 Books, Stationery
 and Wall Paper.
Prescriptions a Specialty.
 Hohman Opera House Block, HAMMOND, IND.
 H. G. MILLER, Pres. W. F. SCHROEDER, Treas.
Hammond Ice Company,
 WHOLESALE and
 RETAIL.
 Greatest of care taken in delivery
 We use nothing but the Best of Ice.
 H. G. MILLER, Mgr.
 RESIDENCE 303 HOHMAN ST.

John Huber, Jr.
 UNDERTAKER
 AND... EMBALMER.
 WE CARRY THE LARGEST AND
 FINEST ASSORTMENT OF ...
**CASKETS, AND
 COFFINS**
 IN NORTHERN INDIANA.
 We give the undertaking our best
 attention and are always ready to
 answer calls at a minutes notice
 either night or day. Night and
 Sunday call up stairs, first door to
 to the right.
 WE ALSO CARRY A
 LARGE STOCK OF
**FURNITURE
 AND
 QUEENSWARE,**
 Which we are selling at Greatly Reduced Prices.
 Newly married couples fitted up complete,
 very reasonable. Call and get our prices.
JOHN HUBER,
 95-97 STATE ST. HAMMOND, IND.

**The Deming-Colborn
 ---Lumber Co.,**
LUMBER, SASH AND DOORS
 Cor. Wilcox street, and Oakley Avenue.
 HAMMOND - - INDIANA
A. H VICTOR,
**The
 Merchant
 Tailor.**
 PANTS TO ORDER
 \$3.50 AND UP.
 Overcoats from \$12 and up.
 171 S. HOHMAN ST. HAMMOND, IND.

Special mention must be made of a class of young men taught by Mrs. Streeter. This class met in the balcony above the primary room. Seldom were there seats enough to accommodate the crowd of young men who came to listen to this gifted woman. She was practicable in her teachings, knowing the problems of young people and the difficulties they had to overcome in order to live a Christian Life. These young men adored her as a teacher and were always early in getting to their places on Sunday and eager to bring friends along to hear her.

In 1907 Rev. Streeter retired from the ministry and returned to his home on Ogden Street. Rev. Streeter was a great patriot also and proud of his service in the G.A.R. He, it was, who organized the first observance of Memorial Day in Hammond in 1890. There was a great parade composed of members of various organizations and school children bearing bouquets of flowers to be placed upon the graves of departed soldiers. The band in brave uniforms, added splendor and pomp to the occasion. He, also, in later years, was the originator of the cenotaph where Memorial Day services were held. But thru the years Rev. Streeter altho engaged in another occupation was ever a pastor willing to help out wherever needed. He had served thru many hard years. In fact, in his early days of preaching, he was forced to travel on horseback in order to serve the churches in his circuit.

EPWORTH LEAGUE ORGANIZED

The young people of the church were known as the Young People's Christian Endeavor, but in the early Nineties, about 1892, they established their own identity as Methodist Youth and formed a chapter of the Epworth League with Guy M. Wells as president. Here was an ardent young Christian worker who had a great influence upon the young people with whom he came in contact. Under his leadership, the League became a strong factor in the Church life of Hammond. Women, who could do so, were very kind in opening their homes for the social activities of these young people. To be invited to have a part in the work of this group, was the ambition and delight of many young men and women.

The Sunday evening services were well attended, and the entire group remained for the evening preaching service which followed.

CHURCH LIFE FILLS NEED

In the early days of First Church there were no amusements to attract the attention of the townspeople. The church life filled a great need for social activities; it was a place where friends met friends in common interest. Ever anxious to meet together, to listen to friendly voices, to hear a good sermon, tho often very long and tiring, and enjoy the musical offering of a talented choir, these people were trained in being punctual in attendance. With the last tap of the bell, the pastor arose to announce the opening hymn. His congregation was ready and waiting. Many of them had walked quite a distance for there was no other mode of transportation. Very few in the congregation could afford the luxury of a horse and carriage. The few who did happen to be so fortunate, somehow felt it more fitting that they join their friends and walk to church on the Sabbath day.

The late comer to the services was frowned upon, not only by the pastor, but also by the people who did not approve of this interruption. And so it was that people hastened to be on time. Once in a while, some daring lady with a new outfit to display, would risk the disapproving glances cast her way, as she was escorted down the center aisle to a seat in the very front of the church. Her gallant but much embarrassed husband, slowly followed her, hoping in vain, that he might find a seat at the rear of the sanctuary or a sudden opening in the floor, through which he might disappear.

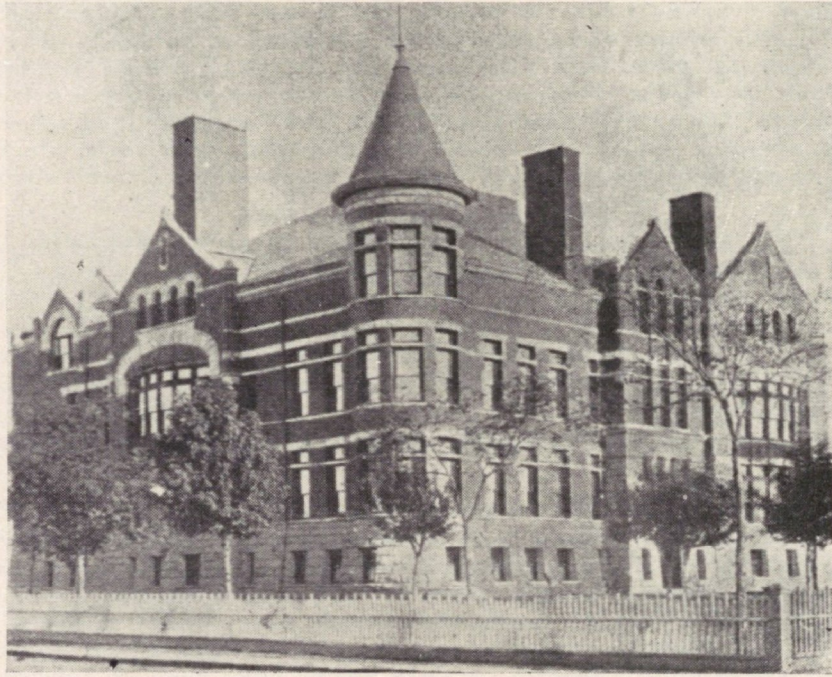
The Methodists were very strict in their belief of what was right and seemly and what was considered unbecoming in the conduct of a church member. Dancing, card playing and attendance at the theater could not be countenanced. Hence many of the young people of the growing town, attracted by the activities of the church, would not become members, because they saw no harm in dancing or going to the theater once in a while. So opposed were the members of the Church Board, that several young people were reprimanded by them, and one young woman was dismissed from membership because she refused to give up these forms of worldliness. She felt that she had committed no wrong in enjoying a good drama or opera or dancing at a private party. Yet with all their sternness they were good people. They were doing their best to live up to what they believed to be right and anxious that the children and young people be trained to carry on the work they began.

HAMMOND A GROWING TOWN

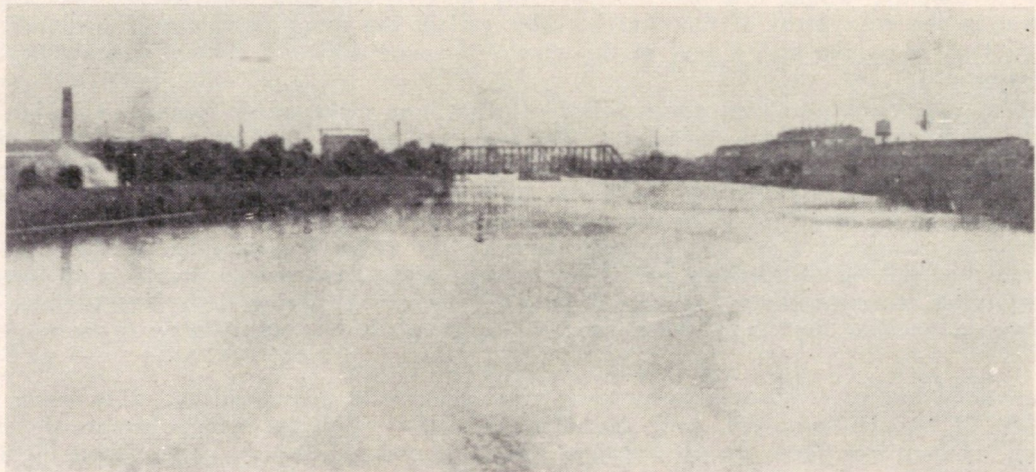
By 1890 Hammond had grown into a lively town numbering 5428 in population. But owing to the nature of the industries, types of people employed, and its nearness to the rapidly growing Chicago, the churches did not have smooth sailing. Oftentimes these groups became depressed and felt that the cost of their labors was too great. To the greater part of the population, Sunday was not looked upon as the Lord's Day, but rather a holiday; a day of carousal, picnics or any sort of amusement that might attract a crowd. There was an increasing number of saloons that drew these men seeking something different in life from the teachings of the church.

Hammond was becoming a railroad center and even at that early date, there was much talk of what should be done about the dangerous railroad crossings, especially those on Hohman Street, where so many lives had been lost. At that time, there were no safety gates nor alarms to warn the pedestrian of the oncoming trains.

The Hohman Opera House at the southwest corner of Hohman and State Streets, offered various types of entertainment from time to time. Here all public gatherings, home talent plays, concerts and High School gradua-



Central School at Hohman and Fayette Streets, 1893



Scene on Calumet River, 1903

tions, took place, until the new Central School was built at Hohman and Fayette Streets. This building contained a large hall or auditorium where all school entertainments were held.

In spite of many difficulties and the seeming indifference of a great part of the population, as to religious and cultural training, the churches grew and exerted a strong influence on the social life of the town. Here the Methodist Church took the lead. It numbered among its members, the school superintendent and many of the teachers, doctors, dentists, lawyers and business men as well as many of those employed in the office of the G. H. Hammond Co. From this latter group, came many of the young people who made up the popular choir of the church.

THE TELEPHONE

So many of the business men felt the need of more rapid communication with Chicago than the local messenger service provided. The Chicago Telephone Company which served outlying districts within a fifty mile radius of Chicago was approached as to service in Hammond. A switch board was installed in the drugstore operated by Oscar Krinbill and Joseph Weiss was the first operator.

Mr. Krinbill became the manager of the local exchange in 1896. The demand for this form of service increased rapidly and the type of switchboard proved inadequate.

Sensing the great future of the district the Chicago Telephone Company erected the building on Rimbach Avenue and installed modern equipment and instituted the system of party lines. In 1904 the city boasted 1000 telephones in use.

Thus began a new system of communication which spread not only to business houses but became one of the necessities of the modern home.

The Chicago Telephone Company was purchased by the Illinois Bell Telephone Company 1920. With the increased capital and new improvements in equipment, the company soon found it necessary to enlarge the Rimbach Avenue building in order to provide more operating room and office space. Today, 1947, one can talk to any city in the United States within a very short time after placing his call. The telephone is so much a part of one's daily life that it is no longer considered a luxury.

POSTAL SERVICE

The year 1896 saw an innovation of service in Hammond that definitely showed the growth and promise of the town. Free mail delivery service was established April 27, 1896. There were three regular carriers. By 1904 there were ten regular and three substitute carriers, serving the entire population. Those people on the outskirts of the populous districts were served by a carrier who used a mail wagon in making his collections and distributions.

In 1904 Congress had appropriated \$140,000.00 for the construction of the Federal Building which would house the Post Office and also the Federal Court.

At that time, there were twenty-seven trains bringing mail to the local office for the force to handle. There was now a sub-station in Robertsdale and one in West Hammond.

THE FIRST PIPE ORGAN

In 1892 Miss Alice Sohl presented a beautiful pipe organ to the church in memory of her sister, Harriett. This marked the beginning of a new phase in church music. Wm. Beall, a nephew of Miss Sohl, became the new organist and served in this way for five years, furnishing an excellent program of music.

Rev. Streeter, with the help of Rev. Schell a former pastor, organized and promoted one of the greatest revivals the Methodist Church had ever known in Hammond. Each night crowds of people came early and soon every seat in the church was occupied. By the time these meetings came to a close, one hundred names were added to the church rolls.

1893 - 1895 REV. A. H. DE LONG

Rev. A. H. De Long followed Rev. Streeter and served through two years, 1893-95. Rev. DeLong and his family were the first to occupy the cottage, the former chapel, which stood just east of the church. This additional 50-ft. lot had been purchased at a price of \$1800.00 and now the church owned a piece of property 100 ft. by 246 ft. From that time on the cottage became known as the Methodist parsonage.

A new department in church life planned for the training of children between the ages of ten and sixteen was the Junior League under the leadership of Mrs. A. A. Winslow. This group met on Saturday afternoons and not only followed the League program, but was schooled in the doctrine of the Methodist Church and prepared for membership. Through the years that followed, the Junior Epworth League became a strong factor in the church life under the direction of Mrs. C. E. Coons.

1895 - 1897 REV. E. P. BENNETT

Rev. Bennett followed Rev. DeLong, 1895-97. Rev. Bennett was much younger than the former pastors and was unmarried. He was a sincere, earnest worker and became very popular with his congregation and more especially with the young people.



Mrs. Rose Widmer,
one of the organizers of
the German Methodist
Church. 1888



German Methodist Church and parsonage on Truman Street. In 1935,
sold to the Hungarian Methodists

1897 - 1899 REV. M. H. APPLEBY

Rev. M. H. Appleby followed Rev. Bennett, 1897-99. He too, was unmarried at that time, but his two sisters lived with him and so the cottage was again occupied by a ministerial family.

During the pastorate of Rev. Appleby, the ministers of the Protestant churches in Hammond, feeling that there was a great need for a religious revival in the town, rented the Hohman Opera House and secured the services of Billy Sunday as the speaker, and his singer, French E. Oliver for a three weeks campaign.

Great crowds thronged the Opera House long before it was time for the services to begin. Many came to hear the old story presented in a different way. Many came out of curiosity and many were attracted by the unusual and spectacular methods Billy Sunday employed. A large chorus choir composed of young people from the various churches and directed by French E. Oliver, provided the special music and led the congregational singing. Two pianos were used. The players were Blanche Shortridge, Linnie Towle, Ida Griffin and Edith Roberts and sometimes Edith Goodman.

This great venture did much in awakening the people and all of the churches felt that they had gained so much thru their combined efforts. The Methodist church had gained one hundred twenty-five new members. Many of these were prominent in the business and civic affairs of the town.

Rev. Appleby had secured the services of a young singer, Clark D. Leaming, for his annual revival meeting. Mr. Leaming had an excellent voice and soon became very popular. He was also a teacher of piano and upon completion of his college work, returned to Hammond where he soon had succeeded in organizing a large class of students. The choir took on a new life under his competent direction and soon became known as one of the finest groups of singers in the region.

1899 - 1900 REV. N. A. CHAMBERLIN

Following Rev. Appleby, the church was served by Rev. Chamberlin. For some reason he was not at all popular with the people and left at the end of his first year, 1899-1900.

1900 - 1904 REV. A. W. WOOD

Through the years 1900-04, Rev. A. W. Wood served. The Wood family took an active interest in the church life and the parsonage became quite popular with the young people. Rev. Wood was staunch and sincere and had the respect of the entire community.

1882 - 1906 A PERIOD OF GROWTH

These years formed a memorable period in the growth of Hammond and of the Methodist Church. Prior to 1882 the little chapel had welcomed all faiths, altho itself mostly Methodist and served by Methodist ministers, thoroly trained in theology in Methodist schools. But 1882 saw it definitely establish its identity as a Methodist Episcopal Church. Hammond was just a small town, really a village, with most of the inhabitants entirely dependent upon the G. H. Hammond Packing Company for their living. Consequently homes were built so that the men would not have far to go to their employment. Early pictures show fine homes on Michigan, Truman, Indiana, Logan, Plummer, State and Sibley Streets. State Street was the new name given to Indiana Street, so that there would not be so much confusion with Indiana Avenue, West State Street of today, was the Ives Street, of those early days. West Sibley Street was known as Dolton Road as it was the connecting link between Hammond and the town of Dolton, a few miles to the westward in Illinois. Stores, restaurants and hotels began to appear and there was an ever increasing number of saloons.

Many of the men employed by the Packing Co., were German, who had long been accustomed to public drinking places and beer drinking. So it was not an unusual sight to see children hastening to the saloons with their buckets or pitchers, to procure the beer for the families' evening meal.

A large settlement of German people grew up just across the State Line in Illinois. This was centered about a Lutheran Church on West Sibley Street, or more properly speaking, the Dolton Road, of that day.

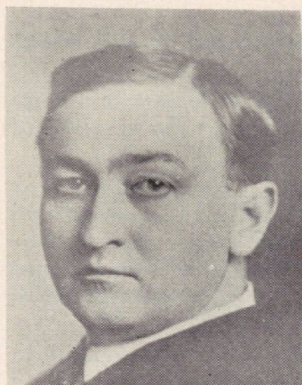
In that day the Indiana-Illinois State Line did not seem to be so significant to these early settlers and they all claimed Hammond as their home. In later years the settlement west of the line became known as West Hammond.

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH

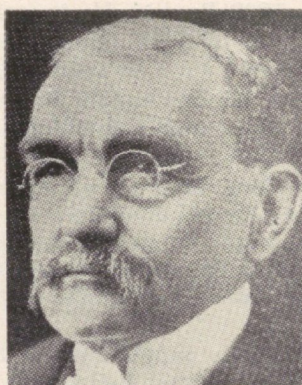
The German people were a very religious, thrifty, home loving people and soon had established St. John's Lutheran on Towle Street, on the north side to serve the people who had settled there and then St. Paul's Lutheran to serve the Hammond group. They also established their schools where their children were given religious instruction and taught the 3 Rs in German.

THE GERMAN METHODIST CHURCH

About 1881 Mrs. Jacob Fischer Sr., and Mrs. Rosa Widmer began a Sunday School class in the German language. For a short time this group met following the Methodist School in the little chapel. But as the group grew, it held its meetings in the Morton House. This was the forerunner of the German Methodist Church on Truman Street. Mrs. Sophronia Wilcox had generously given the little group the land on which they built their church. Mrs. Wilcox was one of the early members of the Methodist Church on Russell Street.



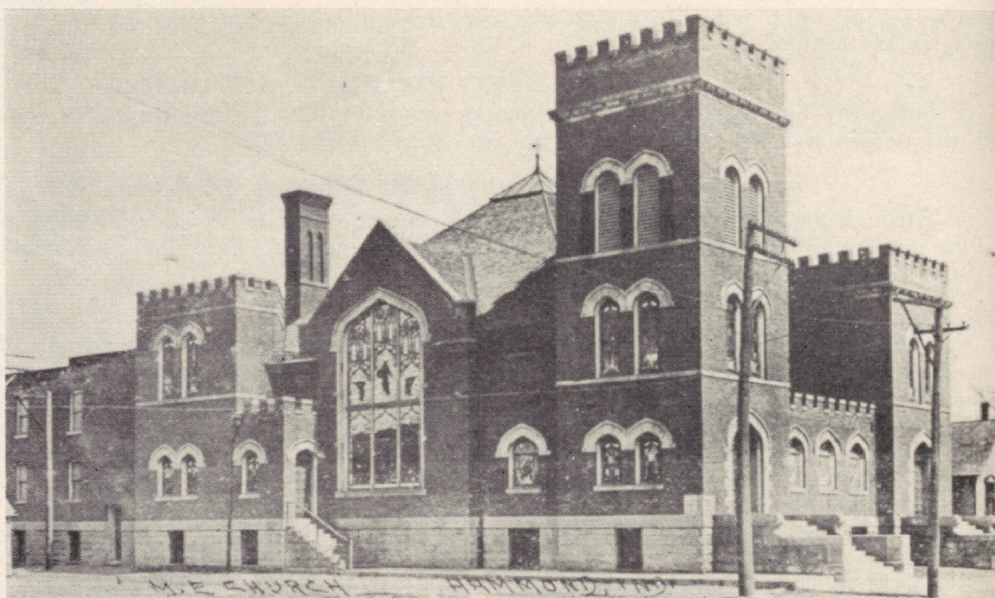
Rev. M. H. Appleby
1897 - 1899



Rev. N. A. Chamberlain
1899 - 1900



Rev. Aaron W. Wood
1900 - 1904



First Methodist Church of Hammond, Ind. At the right stands the early chapel which stood at the corner of Hohman and Russell Streets. When moved to this location it became the Methodist parsonage.



Rev. Lewis S. Smith
Builder of present church
1904 - 1907

These German people were very thrifty and took great pride in their homes which were so neatly kept. Trim lawns and flower beds added to the beauty of the growing town.

THE POLISH SETTLEMENT

Next to the German people coming to Hammond, attracted by work in which they were very efficient, there were two large Polish groups. By 1890 quite a settlement of these people had been formed on the North side and another in West Hammond. Both groups were frugal, hard working people; the women seemed as strong as the men when it came to heavy work. They had very peculiar ideas about many things and especially about carrying home wood or material of any sort that might be of use to them. It was a common sight to see women and children taking home bags of coal they had rolled from the cars in the railroad yards. Anything unguarded seemed to be free property to them.

Both groups were averse to the many changes that were beginning to take place in the region and especially to the installing of sewers which drained their duck ponds. But as time went on, they too, began to change. They established their own churches and schools, St. Casmir on the North side and St. Andrews in West Hammond (Calumet City). At first they refused to have any language but Polish taught in their schools. The younger generation, tho, was quick to take on the new ways and language and soon drew away from the old country manners and dress. The English language was taught in their schools and boys and girls entered our Public and High Schools.

However, this did not come about to any great extent until after the passage of the Child Labor Law. The families were large and, as soon as a child was old enough to get a job and add to the family income, he was put to work. The passage of this act and the employment of Probation Officers by the schools to enforce it, caused considerable unpleasantness and much arguing as to the child's age. As is usual, the law won, and the youngsters were back in school.

Today they are good American Citizens and proud of it. Their sons have served this land well and faithfully and have entered into the full spirit of the American way of life, knowing no other.

INDUSTRIES LOCATE

Because of the location of Hammond so near the rapidly growing city of Chicago, its great number of railroads offering excellent transportation to all parts of the country, other industries felt that this was the place and the opportunity for them. There were great open spaces upon which to build and land was very cheap.

The Nail Mill, Axe Factory, Cincinnati and Hammond Spring Factory, the Hammond Lumber Yard, Hammond Boiler Works, Hammond Distilling Company, the Stein Hirsch Manufacturing Company, Mashie Steel Tube Company, Chicago Steel Manufacturing Company, United States Locomotive Corporation, the Hammond Elevator Company, W. B. Conkey Company, and the Simplex Railway Appliance Company had come into the region bringing many types of people with them to swell the growing population. The Hammond Illuminating Company, later giving place to the Northern Indiana Public Service Company of today, had become established and introduced a new fuel to the housewives. Soon homes were better lighted and the wood and coal burning ranges gave way to the new modern equipment, which gave the women more time for recreation and other activities.

THE WORLD'S COLUMBIAN EXPOSITION

The years 1892 and 1893 were long remembered by the people of the Calumet. A great World's Fair, the Columbian Exposition, had been planned. The wonderful buildings to house the exhibits, were erected in what is now Jackson Park, Chicago. It was truly a World's Fair for so many foreign countries had entered into the spirit of the venture and were generous in displaying their handiwork. When entering the grounds the visitor was really transplanted to Fairy Land.

To many people, the World's Columbian Exposition was the greatest of the World's Fairs. It not only introduced people to the wonders of Science, Art and Manufactures but it aroused in them a greater appreciation of the wonders of their own country. It created a desire for travel. Those coming from the east saw the products of the great fertile prairies of the mid-west. Those from the far west learned of changes in modes of travel and in manufactures.

The school authorities were awakened to the great opportunities this exposition offered in an educational way. They set about to see that every school child might have a chance to spend a day among these scenes. They obtained special admission rates, a special train on the Michigan Central, with fares that made it possible for each child to have at least one day in this wonderland.

The teachers in charge of the younger children really had a problem. But they managed to keep their charges together as they visited the many buildings in which the exhibits were housed. Then, too, there were all kinds of amusements. But the Ferris Wheel and Moving Side Walk seemed to provide the greatest thrill.

As the shades of evening began to fall, the teachers were glad to gather the children together and lead them to their special train which awaited them. As they boarded the train, each teacher checked her list to be sure no lagging youngster had been left behind. To guard against any child being lost, each one wore a ribbon badge bearing the words, "Hammond Public School". It was a great relief to the tired teachers, when the train arrived at the Ham-



Showing a few of the Packing House Buildings remaining after the fire.



Business section, 1903 — J. W. Millikan Store

mond station and their young charges were delivered to the anxious parents. Tired and happy, the children, glad to be home again, felt that they had visited another land that day.

THE PULLMAN STRIKE

Scarcely had the thrill of the great World's Fair become a memory when the inhabitants of the town had their first experience with labor troubles, the Pullman strike of 1894. Since the town was becoming a railroad center and was located only a few miles from the shops at Pullman, there was considerable violence done to railroad property here. Many today, recall the Sunday when people living near the Monon and Erie Roads were told to leave their homes and seek shelter elsewhere as trouble was expected that night. Friends in other parts of the town opened their homes to these people so that they might be out of danger.

The town was aroused over these acts and sent out a call for protection. A company of State Militia was brought in the next day to guard the lives and property of the people and quiet was soon restored.

THE SPANISH AMERICAN WAR

The year 1898 saw the outbreak of the Spanish American War. When President McKinley issued a call for volunteers many young men in Hammond responded. Some went to Chicago and some went to Indianapolis to enlist as individual soldiers and were assigned to various regiments. Many of these young men had been employed in the G. H. Hammond Co. office.

However, Hammond raised Company A of the 161st Indiana Volunteers. The boys went to Indianapolis where they received their new uniforms. They were commanded by Col. Durbin, who later became governor of Indiana, and had the reputation of being the best drilled regiment that took part in the Spanish American War.

Several of the young men active in the raising of this company were rejected because of physical disability. Part of a company had been raised by Capt. Olds in Chicago. When he heard that several of the Hammond young men had failed to pass the rigid medical examination, he came to Hammond with his men and joined the Hammond Company. Olds was elected Captain, George Silverthorn, Lieutenant, and August Johnson, 2nd Lieutenant.

The names of men who were Hammond residents were Wm. Craick, Peter Keitzer, Louis Prohl, Louis St. John, Peter Rhodes, Bill Neis, Fred French, Carl Vermett, George Horniach, Fred Schroeder, Burr Wheeler, Chas. Mason, Pat McGrath, Edward Schloer, Stephen Ripley, Emil Hahlineg, Carl Faul, Ed Granger, George Green, James Mechan, James Murray, Geo. Hay, and Stephen Carr of Whiting, August Johnson of East Chicago, Henry Strabel of Crown Point and Fred McConnell of Valparaiso. Stephen Ripley was the only one listed from the Methodist Church.

The regiment went to Cuba and was encamped near Havana, but saw no harder service than guard duty. They were away about ten months when they were returned to the United States and mustered out of service at Savannah, Georgia.

BLACK JOE

In those days of adolescence, the nineties, there were two familiar characters on our streets who must not be forgotten for they were a real part of the Hammond of that day.

For years and years there was only one colored person in the town, Black Joe. He could be seen any day going quietly about his work. No one seemed to know just whence he came nor how he happened to come to Hammond. He did odd jobs for several families especially the Towles and slept in the M. M. Towle carriage house. He was quiet and bothered no one. He was quite a source of curiosity. Many of the children followed him about begging him to tell them one of his favorite yarns.

Joe was always law-abiding and took great pride in being so. But there was one day in the year when he really forgot his good intentions and celebrated. That was St. Patrick's Day. On that day it was a common sight to see him parading up and down Hohman Street, dressed in his best suit, wearing his tall crowned hat all decorated with bright green ribbon and carrying his cane also decorated with green. Usually he was followed by a group of wide-eyed children, greatly enjoying his antics. In a day or so the celebration was over and the bright ribbons laid away until another year. As the years passed Joe was still a loved character on our streets. His passing was mourned by old and young alike for he was a part of Hammond.

POP CORN GEORGE

The other character was Pop Corn George who was nearly blind. For years he could be seen feeling his way carefully along a street or waiting at a crossing for some kindly person to help him on his way. He made his living by selling pop corn balls and newspapers. He was not so kindly of nature as Joe and resented the teasing and the tricks of the young folk. But he, too, was so much a part of Hammond with his familiar cry of "Pop Corn Balls". Remember these men? Pop Corn George! Black Joe!

ENTERTAINMENT

At one time Hammond boasted of three opera houses. The first was the Hohman Opera House built by Mrs. Caroline Hohman. It was well equipped, had a good stage and scenery.



Mrs. M. M. Towle

The Towle Opera House was the most modern and best equipped of the three, and offered some of the best attractions playing at first class theatres in Chicago. The third was the Huehn Opera House erected by Henry Huehn on the site of the first public hall in Hammond. However, the Huehn Hall served more as a dance hall than a play house.

Prominent too, were two well organized bands, Young's Concert Band and Hammond K.O.T.M. Band. Both were excellent organizations and were in great demand throughout the state.

PARKS

Hammond became park minded quite early in its history. While M. M. Towle served the town as Mayor he purchased what is now Central Park so named because of its central location. Next came Harrison and Douglas Parks and at one time a beautiful park along our lake front known as Lake Front Park. As the years passed some of these parks were enlarged, and new ones purchased in various sections of the city.

THE PUBLIC LIBRARY

There had been several sporadic efforts to establish a library in Hammond. In 1902 the Shakespeare Club, a group of young people, many of whom were teachers in our public schools, conceived the idea of securing a library. They were quite enthusiastic and from time to time, were assisted by some of the citizens who believed in their movement. In the autumn of 1902, they had a collection of about fifty volumes. The infant library was housed in Miss Bloomhof's millinery shop and she also took care of it. At this time, the library was not absolutely free, but was for the use of its membership and supported by yearly dues of one dollar. So far the library was merely a side line of the Shakespeare Club. But it was a side line that gained in importance and so an advisory board which consisted of the original committee plus three outsiders, was appointed.

Otto Negele became greatly interested in the work of these young people and donated a hundred dollars to the venture. This money was used to purchase a set of historical works.

A few months later, the advisory board deemed it time to organize a public library under the statutes of the State of Indiana, authorizing and governing such movements. A committee appointed by Mayor A. F. Knotts, raised two thousand dollars for library purposes. In 1903, the first public library board was appointed: Mrs. J. G. Ibach, A. M. Turner, Lawrence Becker, Dr. Eleanor Scull, Dr. T. W. Kohr, Miss Rena Ames, and Dr. W. F. Howat. Most of the books were acquired by purchase, but many of them were donated. W. B. Conkey at that time had given over 400 books and each year several more. These are juvenile works, reference and government reports, scientific and religious works, history and biographies besides thousands of books of fiction. The present building of Ohio sandstone was built at a cost of \$25,000 the sum donated by the Andrew Carnegie.

THE SUPERIOR COURT HOUSE

Because of the great amount of legal business transacted in Hammond, many of its citizens felt that the court house should be moved from Crown Point to Hammond. This aroused considerable enmity between the north and south ends of the county. Finally the matter was settled by giving Hammond the Superior Court and the present building, since enlarged, was built in 1902-03.

THE G. H. HAMMOND COMPANY FIRE

Dark days dawned. On the morning of October 23, 1901, this bustling town awoke to see the G. H. Hammond Co., its principal source of employment, going up in flames. This catastrophe paralyzed business and threw hundreds of families out of work. This was the first blow. Then the employees of the W. B. Conkey Company went on strike.

Business dried up; merchants failed by the score, and households began to feel the pangs of stark hunger. Bankrupt business men began moving to more prosperous communities and a large number of home owners, simply deserted their dwellings to seek employment elsewhere. Hammond rapidly became a city of empty stores and houses until the desperate civic leaders succeeded in inducing the F. S. Betz Co., to locate here in 1904.

NEW INDUSTRIES IN THE CALUMET

East Chicago, with its steel plants and foundries and Whiting with its Standard Oil Refinery gave employment to many people living in Hammond. Indiana Harbor, with its great mills was getting a foot hold and plans were drawn for the great mills at Gary and the new city to be built along the shore of Lake Michigan, to the eastward and in 1906 the city had been platted and the sale of lots begun.

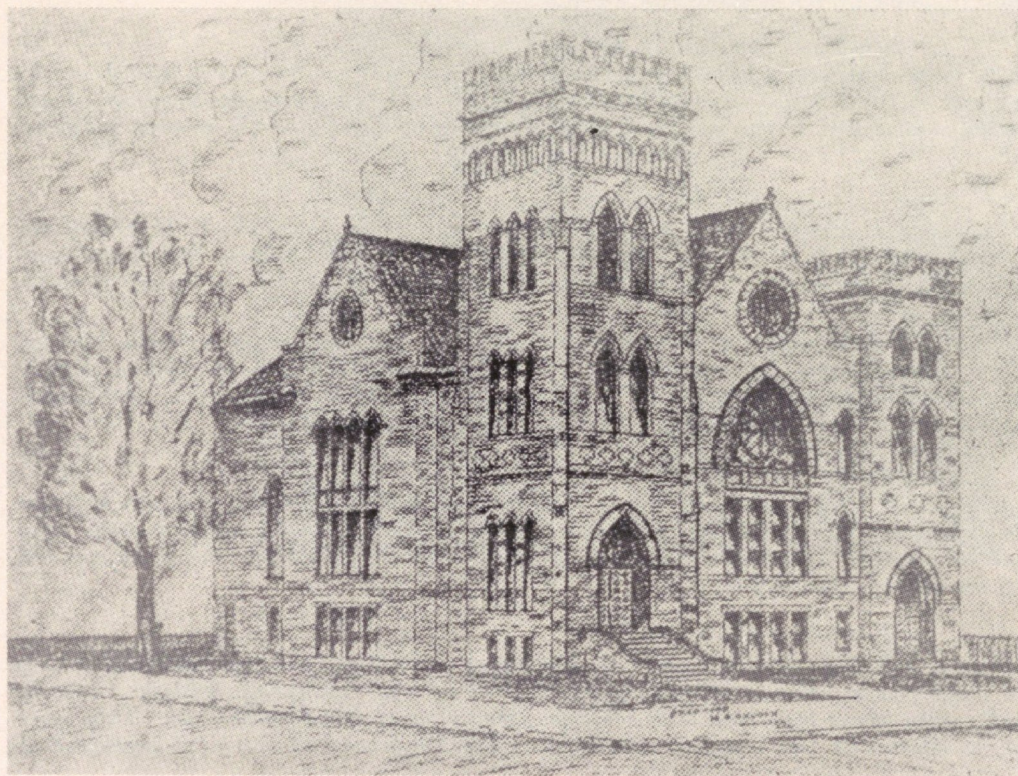
HAMMOND ATHLETIC CLUB

Attempts had been made to form a Y.M.C.A. but had not been successful in arousing sufficient interest to keep the organization. Many young men employed in office positions, however, formed the Hammond Athletic Club, to interest youth in clean athletics, rented rooms where they held their business meetings and social gatherings. They were especially interested in football and so sponsored the Iroquois teams that made Hammond known as a promoter of clean sports.

Familiar to many are the names of these young men who played on this team. Many of them are gone but several are still living, a few of them in Hammond.



Meeting-point of the three lines of the Hammond, Whiting & East Chicago Railway Company. Intersection of Hohman and State Streets, 1903



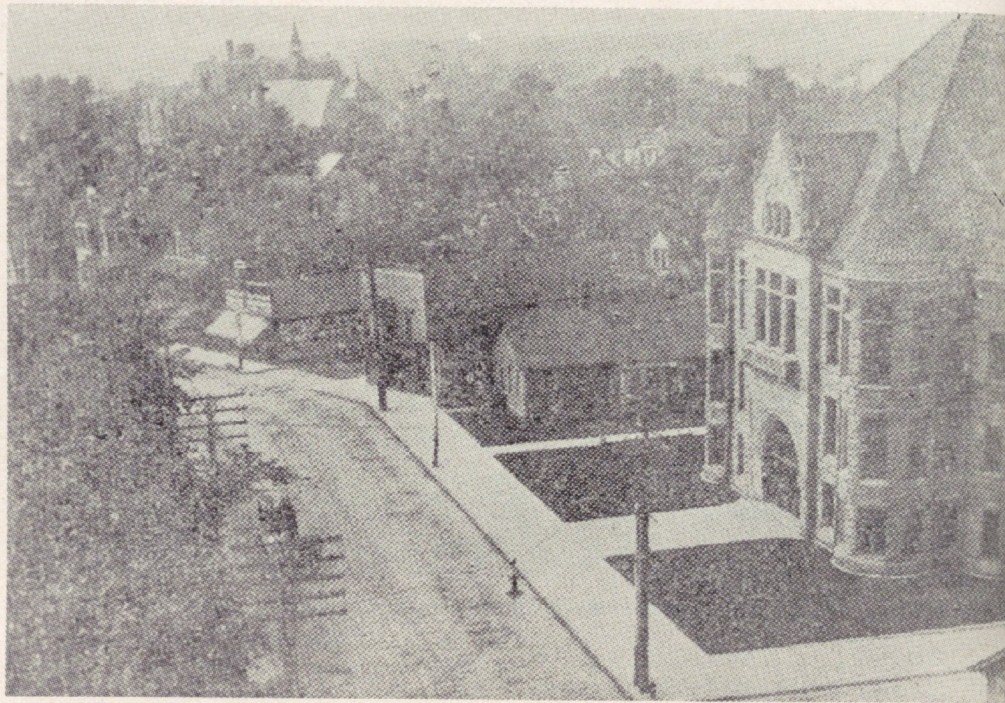
Methodist Episcopal Church as planned in 1904.



Labor Day Parade on Hohman Street, September, 1906.



First National Bank, Sibley and Hohman, 1906



Hohman Street, 1904



Showing cottages of packing house days on West Sibley Street. Morton House in the distance, 1906.



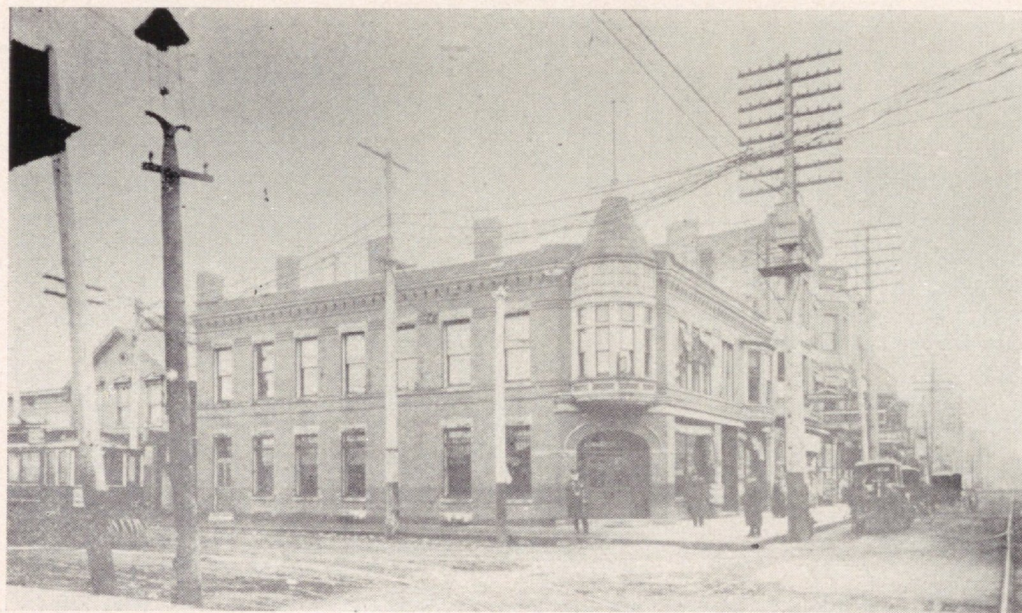
From Muenich Court, south, 1906



Hohman Street north from Superior Court House, 1906



Hohman Street, 1906



Southeast corner State and Hohman, 1906



East from the railroad on State Street, 1909.



State Street looking toward Hohman. Crossing blocked by freight train, 1909



East side of Hohman Street, 1909



Hohman Street south from Superior Court House, 1909

The Iroquois team: Hoopie Heiser, Fred Geib, Gus Portz, George Stevens, Ernest Schillo, Percy Smith, Fat Goehring, Earl Cole, the Reel brothers, George Knoezer, Bill Schulte, Don White, Fred Heintz, Carl Griffin, Victor Dyer, and Walter Halfman. The team was managed by Will Mee and coached by Percy Parry, former editor of the Hammond Times.

A NEW INDUSTRY

Toward the latter part of this period, The Standard Steel Car Manufacturing Co., had erected a modern plant on the outskirts of the southeast part of Hammond. This industry because of the nature of its work, was instrumental in bringing a different type of foreign element into town. Many of these came from Central Europe and the Balkan countries. They were loath to give up their old ways of living and found it difficult to take on the manners and customs of this new land.

Great tenement houses had been built by the company near its plant, to house these workers. And so they formed another group, establishing their own churches and clinging to their own ways and language. They have exerted a great influence on the life of the town. For a time, there was considerable trouble in teaching these people the ways of law and order. Gradually they took on the ways of American life, their children entered the schools of the town and became thoroughly Americanized. This is apparent as one reads the names of the student rolls and also those names which appear in our athletic contests.

RAILROADS OF THE CALUMET

The Baltimore and Ohio, Lake Shore & Michigan Southern, Pittsburg, Fort Wayne and Chicago, Michigan Central, Wabash, Monon, Chicago & Erie, Nickel Plate, Cincinnati, Richmond and Muncie and Pere Marquette passed thru Hammond. The Elgin, Joliet and Eastern, the Chicago Junction and the Chicago Terminal were freight transfer lines serving the Calumet region. There was also the Hammond, Whiting and East Chicago Electric Railway Company, serving these towns. By an arrangement with the South Chicago City Railway Company, street cars made it possible for one to ride from Hammond to Sixty-third Street and Stony Island Avenue, where connections could be made with the Chicago City Railway, the "L" or the Illinois Central for the shopping district of Chicago. Later there was a suburban train service making a loop trip from Chicago, through Hammond, Indiana Harbor and Whiting back to Chicago.

The latter arrangement proved very popular to shoppers and theatre goers, and people were even then learning that it was pleasant to work in Chicago and live out of the city, men making a daily trip back and forth.

There was also talk of an electric railway or street car line that was to be built converging from Cincinnati, Cleveland, Detroit and Indianapolis, passing thru Hammond into Chicago. But the invention of the automobile and its manufacture at a price many people could afford, changed this and the plan went no further than the paper on which it was drawn.

Water transportation had always intrigued manufacturers, but there were few good harbors along the south end of Lake Michigan at that time except at South Chicago and the Chicago River.

There is an old story, however, that near the beginning of the nineteenth century, young Jefferson Davis, an engineer officer, had been sent to the southern shore of Lake Michigan to locate a harbor. He tramped along the shore line, examining every inlet with great care. Coming to the mouth of Wolf Lake he said to his men "This is the harbor for southern Lake Michigan". It is reported that he stayed at Wolf Lake for some time mapping the locality and drawing up his report. At that time, Wolf Lake needed very little improvement to make it a good harbor. But the young engineer heard that there were some white people living a few miles to the westward, so he followed the lake shore until he came to the mouth of the Chicago River, where he found a French trader and his family living in a log cabin. The trader had a beautiful daughter and soon the young engineer fell in love with her.

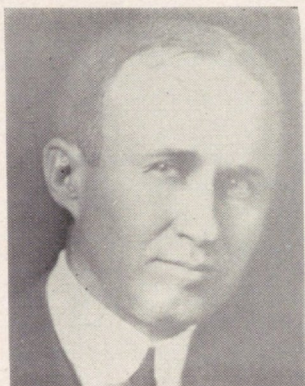
The natural advantages of Wolf Lake as a harbor, were forgotten entirely, and the Chicago River was recommended as the site for the harbor, because of its "good facilities which might be bettered in the future." Thus what might have greatly influenced the growth of Hammond, was passed by for a location that did really require much "betterment". In 1904 hopes for a harbor on Wolf Lake were revived but now in 1946, we hear more about a deeper and better harbor on Lake Calumet.

WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS

There were many happy hours tho in spite of the dark days the town was passing through. The women had more time for cultural improvement due to many improvements which had made their housekeeping less arduous. The Marquette Club, the Embroidery Club, the Colonial Club, the Magazine Club were among those organized for social purposes. The Hammond Woman's Club offered opportunities to those interested in Music, Literature, History, and other Cultural activities. Through the many years of its existence it has wielded a strong influence upon the lives of Hammond womanhood.

1904 - 1907

So rapid had been the growth of the town and of the Methodist congregation and Sunday School, the Board of Trustees felt that a larger building was necessary to house the crowd and give ample space for the carrying out of the work of the large Sunday School. Plans were drawn for a new church to cost \$25,000. But business collapse, due



Rev. Frank O. Farley
1912 - 1916



Women in attendance at the conference



Northwest Indiana Conference, 1913.

to the removal of the G. H. Hammond Company to Chicago, caused the plans to be dropped. Because of their employment, many families transferred to Chicago. In a short time over four hundred families had left Hammond, leaving many empty houses and business buildings.

The aroused civic leaders worked hard putting forth every effort to induce varied types of industries to locate in the town. They hoped that with the coming of new life into the community, the town would become more progressive and really be the lively industrious city its founders pictured.

1904 - 1907 — REV. LEWIS S. SMITH

So the church interest was sustained and it continued to prosper. With the coming of Rev. Lewis S. Smith in 1904, there was an active membership of 300. By this time the pastor's salary had been increased to \$1000.00. Finding the parsonage cottage too small for his family needs, the new pastor was permitted to rent the cottage and apply this sum on the rent he would have to pay for other quarters.

The Ladies Aid held a reception and made the new minister and his family feel that they were indeed welcome. At the first Official Board meeting, the budget was set at \$1600.00. The church was in a healthy condition and again thoughts turned toward a new building. There had been a great revival meeting lasting three full weeks. Many new names were added to the membership. The Sunday School had a regular attendance of one hundred twenty-five.

April 19-20, 1905, a Ministerial Institute was held in the church and was attended by thirty-six ministers. The meeting marked one of the first attempts of the Methodist Ministers to discuss and study the many problems relative to their work. All felt that they had gained inspiration from getting together in this manner and greatly appreciated the hospitality of the Hammond church.

A NEW CHURCH

The movement toward providing a new house of worship gained impetus. In sizing up the situation, the trustees in recognition of the demands for a new church, set up the following:

- 1—They had an excellent location free of any debts.
- 2—In the hands of the trustees and the Ladies' Aid Society, there was cash and assets above \$4000.00
- 3—There was a loyal contributing membership.
- 4—There was a public spirited citizenship, bearing good will.
- 5—There was a large chorus choir of twenty or twenty-five voices led by Clark Leaming, with Theo. Moor as organist. The excellent music provided by the choir had been instrumental in filling the church to capacity.

Activities concerning the new church.

- 1—The presiding elder and the pastor urged the duty to build.
- 2—The Quarterly Conference and the Official Board approved the purpose and directed the Board of Trustees to proceed.
- 3—Rev. Smith, J. W. Reed and W. W. Parker were instructed to get new plans. They visited new churches in Chicago, Indianapolis, and Terre Haute and inspected the plans.
- 4—J. W. Reed made blueprints of the plans which were approved by the Quarterly Conference.
- 5—January 16, 1906—Rev. Smith was authorized to take subscriptions to be paid on or before December 1, 1906.

So the work forged ahead. By August 29th, 1906, \$7000.00 had been subscribed. On this day a great meeting was held. Every member, who possibly could, was present to give help. The presiding elder was present and the sermon was given by Rev. W. D. Parr of the Northern Indiana Conference. Many remember W. C. Belman with his chart and plans for financing the undertaking. He worked hard giving time and energy as well as money.

The building committee consisted of W. C. Belman, J. W. Reed, Charles Kasson, W. W. Parker, and Henry Zoll. They employed J. T. Hutton as the architect and advertised for bids to build the new church.

The following assets gave them confidence to go ahead:

Mrs. Sophronia Wilcox had given twenty-one building lots which had been sold and the sum of \$1650.00 realized. In the church treasury, there was now \$2175.00. Subscriptions amounted to \$10,300.00. The Ladies Aid Society held building and loan stock to the amount of \$500.00 making a total of \$14,625.00 which by the end of that week, was raised to \$15,000.00

The following contracts were let: Steam heating plant, W. F. Brunt \$1550.00. Construction W. W. Parker \$23,622.00.

The first subscription of \$1000.00 by the Ladies' Aid Society was to be paid by Dec. 1, 1906. On April 29, 1906 the Society had made an additional pledge of \$800.00 making a total of \$1800.00 that these women had subscribed. The Missionary Societies jointly gave \$200.00. The Epworth League subscribed \$350.00 and promoted a lecture to be given by Dr. W. A. Quayle of St. James Church, Chicago and made over \$100.00 net. The Sunday School raised \$600.00 as its share. The Primary Department, under the leadership of Mrs. J. O. Thompson, gave a concert which netted \$50.00. The choir, under the leadership of Clark D. Leaming, gave a concert in the Towle Opera House and added \$100.00 to the growing fund.



T. Edwards, E. Wheeler, J. Bredell, G. Gardner, Abie the devil, C. Meyer, E. Gilbert, J. Davidson, A. Wolff, H. Mitchell, J. Mahoney, L. James, Arthur Borman. Hammond Tribune Office, W. State Street.

The years 1906-1907 saw an awakening in Hammond business. Several new industries had bought land and put up buildings and also brought many new people into the city to make their homes. Hammond was becoming more prosperous and again began to take pride in itself. The Sunday School now boasted an average attendance of one hundred forty-five.

The financial report for the year showed the following bills paid. Salary and rent \$1200.00. Presiding Elder \$108.00, Bishop \$18.00, Janitor \$120.00, Chorister \$100.00, Light and fuel \$150.00. To this was added a deficiency of \$267.00 from the preceeding year.

Early in January of this same year, the Brotherhood of St. Paul had been organized with a charter membership of forty-two men. The following officers were chosen: Pres. Clark Leaming; Sec., J. W. Davis; Treas. Theo. Moor. The group met monthly and subscribed \$500.00 toward the Building Fund.

The parsonage cottage had been moved to the east side of the lot. The old church now stood at the rear of the church lot and was put in shape for winter use by J. W. Reed. Many remember the narrow walk along the alley leading to the frame building. Later this walk came in from Hohman Street past an old brick building and barn. As work began on the new church, it had been thought safer for people to follow the newer walk altho it was very dark and hazardous.

THE CORNER STONE

Nov. 6, 1906, the corner stone was laid according to the Ritual of the Methodist Episcopal Church. The Committee in charge of the corner stone laying, consisted of Rev. Lewis S. Smith, W. C. Belman and J. K. Stinson. They had secured Dr. W. A. Quayle to give the address. As the weather was too cold for an outdoor meeting, the services were held in the Towle Opera House. Rev. Smith, in his excellent report said that the Sunday School had now raised \$500.00 of its \$600.00 subscription. It had secured and paid \$25.00 for new song books, provided its own literature and had given more missionary money than at any time in its history. Its attendance was greatly increased and its contributions doubled. The same was said of the church services also. The Women's Missionary Societies had greatly increased and had also met their obligations.

When W. W. Parker was given the contract for the building of the new church, he immediately sought the help of two men who were members of the congregation and well known for the type of work they did. These men were H. C. Zoll and E. E. Cole, the latter the father of the writer. He told them that there was a difficult job for them in the building of the new church and that he was depending upon them to lay the floors no matter where they were employed when the time came. How well they did their work is manifest today. After forty years of constant use the floors are in perfect condition. At no time has there been any replacement or renailling. These men were truly masters of their craft and took great pride in doing their work well.

DEDICATION DAY

Sunday, June 30, 1907 was set as the Dedication Day. The Church was not quite finished but was far beyond the expectation of the crowd. Bishop W. H. McDowell and Dr. W. D. Parr of Kokomo, Ind., were the speakers of the day. Dr. D. W. Wood, the Presiding Elder, led in the dedication ritual.

Mr. and Mrs. Thos. Hammond had given the first communion service to the newly organized Methodist Church. When the new church was dedicated, Mrs. Hammond presented a new Communion set with individual service, in memory of Mr. Hammond.

In memory of Mrs. Irena Towle, the family gave the beautiful west window near the pulpit. The other windows given in memory of members long departed were for: Mrs. Nettie G. Belman, Mrs. Emma Belman, Stephen W. Ripley, Ethel Dake, Arthur David Nason, A. Van Valkenberg, A. Van de Walker, Emma Rosenberg, and also one by the Women's Home Missionary Society. These beautiful windows in color, gave a softened light which greatly enhanced the auditorium of the church. On Dedication Day, it was still necessary to ask for more funds. Mr. Belman, with the help of Rev. Parr, again took over this mission. \$16,500.00 was the sum required to pay all obligations. These payments were to extend over a period of three years with payments being made semi-annually on Dec. 31st and June 30th. \$15,300.00 was raised at this time and the remaining \$1200.00 was assumed by the Board of Trustees.

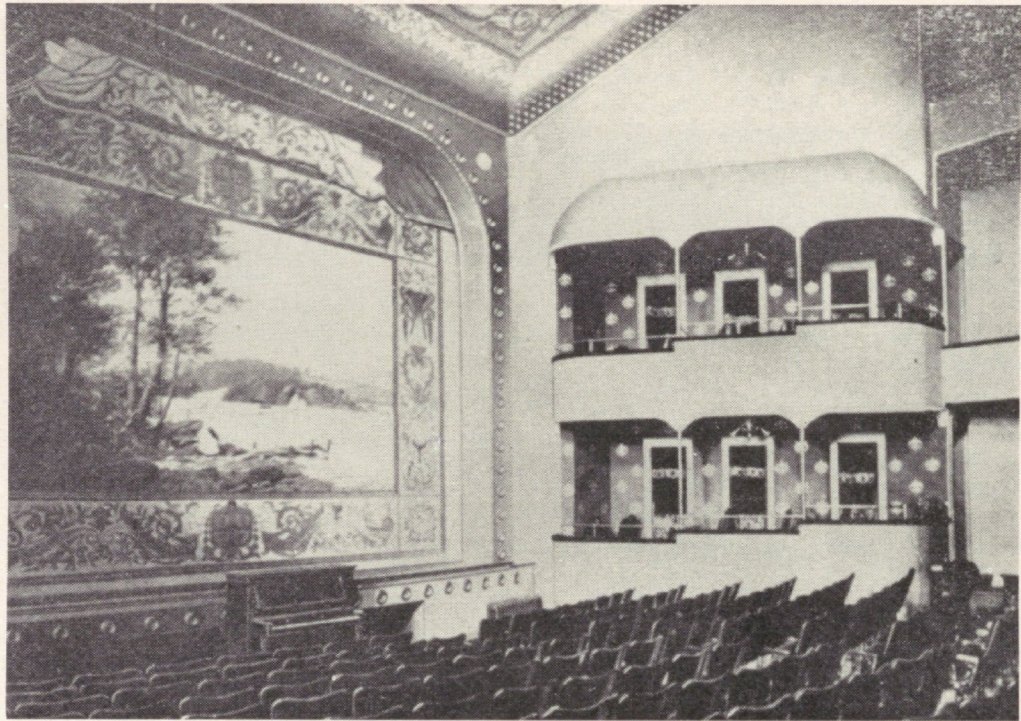
OFFICERS

The Official Board now consisted of the following: Trustees: J. W. Reed, W. C. Belman, Chas. Kasson, W. W. Parker, J. G. Ibach, J. W. Whitby, Grace Brooks, Susan Bomberger, and J. O. Holmes. Stewards: E. R. Stauffer, Mrs. J. G. Ibach, J. W. Houser, Harry Voight, Henry Zoll, E. R. Ford, Mrs. J. W. Dake, Henry Burke, L. L. Bomberger, Clark Leaming, Theo. Moor, F. J. Rosenberg, Chas. Surprise, J. W. Davis and Lyman B. Whitzell.

SPECIAL SERVICES

During the week of June 30th - July 7th, 1907, meetings were held each evening in the new church. The choir offered a special musical program and ministers of various Protestant churches spoke. Large crowds attended each meeting and rejoiced with the members of the church in the dedication of the new building.

On Sunday, July 7th, the first communion service was held. The program for the day began with Sunday School at 9:45 a. m. followed by the preaching service and communion and the class meeting at noon. The Epworth League met at 7 p. m., and the evening service at 8 p. m., closing with communion.



Interior of Towle Opera House, 1909



Hohman Street north from Rimbach, 1909

Showing the interest in the church and its growing activities were sixty-eight names added to the membership, in the time between the laying of the corner stone and the dedication of the church. The frame church was torn down. The lumber was purchased by J. M. Bradford who moved it to Conkey Street, where he built a two flat building. This building is still standing, the first one east of Hohman Avenue on Conkey.

1907 - 1912 REV. GEO. SWITZER

Rev. Smith was followed by Rev. Geo. Switzer, who proved himself an excellent leader and won many warm friends. Hammond was enjoying a building boom and many homes had been built south of Conkey Street. The people in this addition felt that they were too far from the downtown church for the children to attend Sunday School. Then too, with only the meager transportation afforded by the Street Car Company, it was really a long distance for them to go to church. So with the aid of Rev. Switzer, a new group of Methodists was formed, and they met in the home of Mrs. Phillip Breillatt where their organization was perfected. They bought a lot on Monroe Street, and built the Monroe Street Chapel. Later this was sold and the money used in the building of the new Hyde Park Methodist Church on Harrison Street.

CHANGES IN CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

A great change had come about in the membership of the downtown church, which now had become the First Methodist Episcopal Church of Hammond. Many of those early citizens, who had given so much of their time and resources to the establishment of the church had passed on or moved away. Miss Sohl and Mrs. Beall had moved to Chicago. Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Winslow had left Hammond when Mr. Winslow was appointed Consul General to Belgium under President McKinley, and had taken up their residence in Liege. Mrs. Towle, who had been the financial backer of the old church, was gone. In 1910, her husband, M. M. Towle who though never a member of the church had given generously to its support, was also gone. In his memory, the son, M. M. Towle, Jr., gave the \$3000.00 pipe organ now in use.

The organ was installed and dedicated April 4, 1911. Prof. Walter Keller of Chicago, gave an excellent program of music and introduced his audience to the fine possibilities of the new instrument.

So, although the absence of these old members was keenly felt, the membership continued to grow and the church prospered. Rev. Switzer is the oldest living pastor of First Church. He is past eighty years of age and quite feeble. He makes his home in Gary with his daughter, Kathryn.

1912 - 1916 REV. F. O. FRALEY

Rev. F. O. Fraley served 1912-1916. The Fraley family was the last ministerial family to occupy the cottage parsonage. It was in great need of repair and modernization and no longer considered suitable as a home for the pastors of First Church.

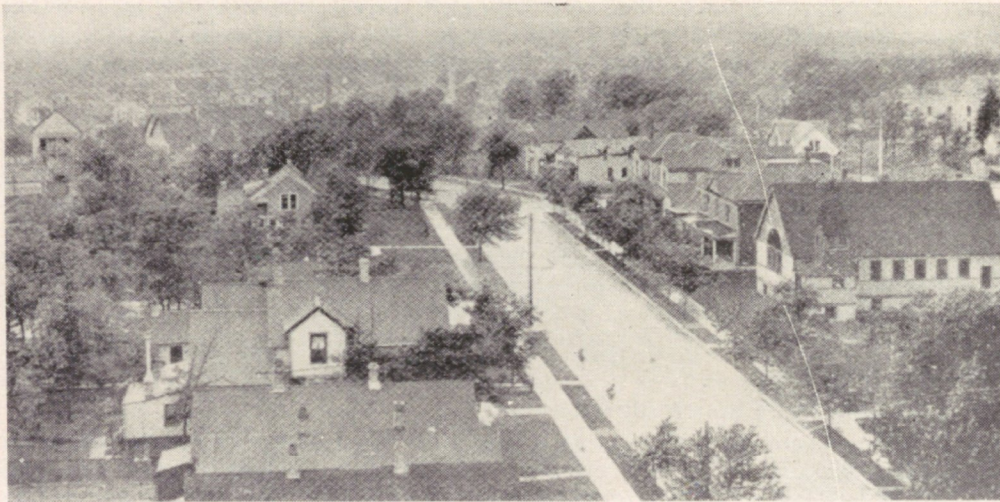
Under Rev. Fraley a much more elaborate plan of organization was perfected by the Official Board.

- I—Executive Committee
W. C. Belman, J. W. Reed, and M. M. Towle, Jr.
- II—Finance Committee
W. H. Spellman, F. R. Martin, Theo. Moor, J. E. Myers, C. H. Lasater, W. B. Muir, A. E. Jarnecke, H. A. McConnell, I. D. Cresson, P. F. Golding
- III—Church Operation Committee
Henry T. Burke, Chas. Kasson, C. B. Tinkham
- IV—Usher's Committee
M. M. Bruce, J. O. Thompson, Harry C. Voight
- V—Music Committee
M. M. Towle, Jr., W. C. Belman, J. E. Wilson, M. M. Bruce, Mrs. Julius Dunsing, Mrs. Louis Freeman
- VI—Deaconess Committee
Mrs. Clark Leaming, Mrs. Louis Freeman, Mrs. Frank R. Martin, Mrs. J. W. Reed, Mrs. W. B. Muir
- VII—Sunday School
Dr. W. Mayes Martin, Grover De Long, Mrs. Jesse Wilson, Mrs. M. M. Bruce, McClelland Anderson.
- VIII—Epworth League
Frank R. Martin, J. E. Myers, Gladys Younger, Ethel Hoffman, Ferrel Staley
- IX—Church Membership
Chas. L. Surprise, I. D. Cresson, H. C. Zoll
- X—Pulpit Supply
M. M. Towle, Jr., L. B. Whitezell, J. E. Wilson

Bishop: W. F. McDowell, Chicago, Illinois.

Dist. Supt.: A. T. Briggs, Valparaiso, Indiana.

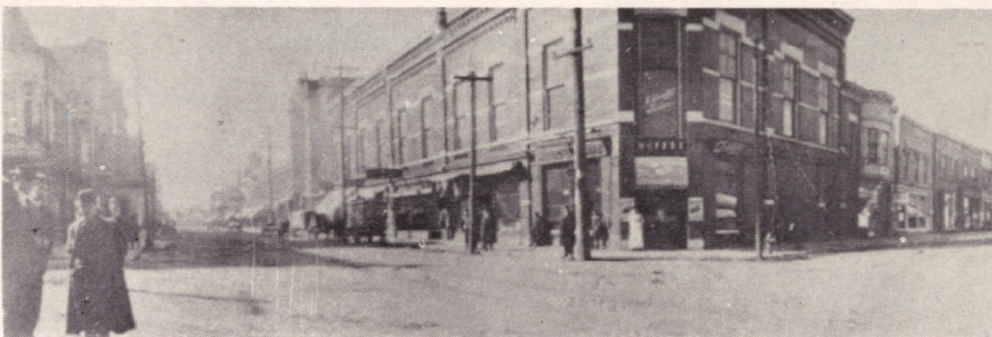
Deaconess: Miss Elizabeth Vinall.



Rimbach Avenue, 1909, showing Episcopal Church



Hohman Street north from Sibley, 1911



State and Hohman, 1911. Mr. Orphe Nelson in foreground.

Class Leaders: Chas. L. Surprise, I. D. Cresson, H. C. Zoll.

Retired Ministers: Geo. H. Streeter, N. E. Tinkham, W. Mayes Martin.

The following is a list of officers and schedule of activities.

| | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Sunday School Superintendent..... | L. B. Whitezell |
| President Epworth League | Gordon Williams |
| Superintendent Junior League | Miss Vinall |
| President Brotherhood | M. M. Towle, Jr. |
| President Ladies Aid | Mrs. C. L. Wolff |
| President W. F. M. S. | Mrs. G. R. Streeter |
| President W. H. M. S. | Mrs. A. D. Stewart |
| Organist and Choir Director | Clark Leaming |

SUNDAY SERVICES

9:45—Sunday School
10:45—Public Worship
2:30—Junior League
6:30—Epworth League
7:30—Music and Sermon

WEEK DAY SERVICE

7:30 p.m.—First Monday in month Official Board
7:30 p.m.—First Tuesday in month Epworth League
7:30 p.m.—First Tuesday in month St. Paul Brotherhood
2:30 p.m.—First Tuesday W. H. M. S.
2:30 p.m.—Second Tuesday W. F. M. S.
2:30 p.m.—Alternate Wednesday Ladies Aid Society
7:30 p.m.—Every Wednesday Mid-week Prayer Service
8:00 p.m.—Every Thursday Choir

1916 - 1920 DR. T. J. BASSETT

Dr. T. J. Bassett, 1916-1920. The church now rented an apartment as a home for the pastor. Dr. Bassett served thru the years of the First World War. Many of the young men from First Church had answered their country's call and had returned to again take their places in the life of the church, the Sunday School and the Epworth League.

Dr. and Mrs. Bassett were faithful workers and well loved by the members of the congregation. It was with deep regret that they bade these good people farewell. Dr. Bassett felt that the size of the church with its incumbent load of duties was too great for him because of his age and health and asked to be sent to a smaller charge.

CENTENARY CHURCH

The part of Hammond lying north of the Calumet River had taken on new life. Several new industries had found locations there, new streets had been laid out and hundreds of homes built. This growing community felt the need for a church nearer their homes and the Methodists felt it a good field for expansion for them. Mr. and Mrs. Lasater were sent from First Church to help in this work and served faithfully, in getting the Sunday School organized. So during the great Centenary movement in Methodism, our Northside church, the Centenary, was organized and built. Many of the members of First Church gave financial aid also. This church answered a great need and it, along with the Pine Street Presbyterian Church, has always been an active factor in the religious and social life of our North side.

FIRST WORLD WAR

The dark clouds of war hung over Europe with Germany the aggressor. Ocean travel was no longer safe and our great freighters no longer plied the seas in freedom. More and more it seemed certain that the United States would enter the conflict.

A mute testimonial to Hammond's participation in the World War is shown in a great service flag made by some 150 women of the city. The huge flag measured 21 x 27 ft. and required sixty-five square yards of silk red, white and blue. It was dotted with 3,782 stars, each star representing a home town boy. The twenty-eight gold stars in the center were for those who met death in action. There were one hundred one stars for those wounded in battle. The whole plan was worked out by Mrs. R. B. Powley, the mother of Dr. Wesley Powley. The entire cost \$1,500.00, was met by contributions from loyal citizens and school children.

THE LIBERTY TEMPLE

At 7 o'clock on the morning of April 7, 1918, six revolver shots rang out in Hammond's downtown district and marked the beginning of Hammond's most spectacular World War Memorial, the Hammond Liberty Temple, at the corner of Fayette and Hohman Street where the Calumet National Bank Building now stands.



Showing Minas Store, 1909



The child is now Mrs. Harold Wheeler



A. D. Q. CLUB, 1910

Iva Simco, Ethel Hoffman, Gertrude Jones, Ella Ketchum, Ina Martin,
Edna Switzer, Ethel Shearer, Alice Bump, Edith Shearer



Liberty Hall—Built in one day, April 7, 1918

Before the echoes of the shots had died away, three hundred union craftsmen had run up the frame work. By 9 o'clock the floor was laid. Three hours later, the sides and roof were completed. Before the sun was set, the huge building was ready for use, complete to the last detail, including painting, electric connections, telephones, equipment and interior decorating. The structure provided 100,000 sq. ft of floor space and was dedicated April 8, 1918 as a patriotic center by Peter W. Meyn, A Murry Turner, Mayor Dan Brown, P. A. Parry, Chas. R. Dyer, and Mrs. Joseph Thompson. Souvenir programs were sold to help pay the wholesale price of materials.

All patriotic meetings and liberty loan drives were held here. Prominent speakers were brought to Hammond to spur the people on to greater giving. Billy Sunday, ever popular with Hammond people, was again one of the principal speakers. Great parades were organized and well known bands as the Scottish Highlanders or the Great Lakes Training School Bands, were brought to Hammond to lead in furnishing martial music.

The war made many changes in the industrial life of Hammond. Many of the steel and car building plants of the region were engaged in the production of war materials. The Standard Steel Car Company at the south east edge of Hammond, had greatly expanded and again the housing problem was all important. Although there had been a rapid settlement of that part of Hammond east of Calumet Avenue and south of the Nickle Plate Railroad, building began along Columbia Avenue and to the eastward and also along Summer Street east. Since there was not adequate transportation, the people endeavored to build their homes as near to their places of employment as possible.

Everyone, who possibly could, was engaged in renting of sleeping rooms to the newcomers. Hammond knew a period of prosperity. New subdivisions were platted, new industries were developed, and other industries invited.

1890 - 1920 EDUCATION

A city of over 60,000 had grown from the little village of 1869-70. The rapid growth in population had taxed the educational facilities. In 1890, there were three school buildings, the old square block building at Fayette and Hohman, the Lincoln, serving the Northside and Riverside, serving the east side and Cottage Grove region. A frame building, known as the Foggstown School, was erected at Calumet Avenue, and Sibley Streets which was, in later years, replaced by the LaFayette School.

In 1892 the old square building on Hohman Avenue, had been sawed into two sections and moved east across the Monon and Erie Railroads and in 1893 the new Central School was completed. This modern building was considered one of the finest in the state at that time.

W. C. Belman continued to serve as school superintendent and was perfecting a splendid school organization. Among some of the teachers serving at Central at that time were Sarah Starr, Jennie Mabbs, Mary Minas and Gertrude Stamp. In the High School were W. C. Belman, W. A. Hill, Anna Bassett and Emma Holton.

During the time the building was under construction students were housed wherever possible. The lower grades gathered in the old Masonic Temple on West State Street. The first and third grades went in the morning and the second and fourth grades in the afternoon. The High School was sent to the Riverside building. The other students met in Borchert's Hall, corner of Sohl and State Streets. Some of the parents did not approve of this plan and sent their children to the German Lutheran School on Clinton Street. So it was a great day for all when the new Central building was ready for occupancy and the students were all back together again.

By 1910 there were several modern school buildings in Hammond. In addition to those mentioned, Washington, Wallace, Irving and Franklin had been erected and a new addition added to the LaFayette School. On the far north side, Robertsdale was a rapidly growing community because of its proximity to Whiting, the home of the Standard Oil Refinery. The new Franklin Building had replaced the old frame one that had served the region.

In the early day there had been a small school near Roby and another at Berry Lake. Pupils who did not attend these schools went to Whiting and high school students from Whiting and East Chicago came to Hammond. But as new industries located at East Chicago and the new town of Indiana Harbor with its great steel mills, these became flourishing towns and high schools were established in East Chicago and Whiting.

It seemed impossible for the school city of Hammond to keep pace with the rapidly increasing population. Maywood School had been built to care for the thickly populated east side. A new building, Hammond High School, had been erected at Calumet Avenue, and Highland Street, and it was only a few years until an extensive addition had been made to this building to house the young folk seeking educational advantages.

W. C. Belman had left the schools and entered the business world. He was succeeded by W. H. Hershman, C. M. McDaniel, E. S. Monroe and the present superintendent, L. L. Caldwell.

Again Hammond felt the stress of Labor trouble in the Standard Steel Car strike which had caused much suffering among people employed there, because of work stoppage.

Many changes, too, had come about in the schools of the city. It was no longer a day of intensive study alone. Art, Music, Athletics, Manual Training, Shop Work, and Home Economics had been introduced into the curriculum. Later a complete Business and Commercial Course was added. With the coming of L. L. Caldwell, school bands were organized and Band practice became a part of the student program.



Northwest corner of Rimbach and Hohman, 1910

THE CHURCH

As these changes took place in the school life of the boys and girls, other changes came about in the church life also. It had long been the custom for the pastor to conduct a season of revival services during the winter months just preceding the Lenten season or as a part of it.

During Dr. Bassett's pastorate, the Kerr Brothers, who were also able singers, and Evangelist and Mrs. E. DeWitt Johnson led great revivals which added greatly to the life and growth of First Church. Also, because of the increased work demands made upon the pastors, a deaconess had been employed at various times and she took over much of the visitation work.

1920 - 1924 DR. BENJAMIN RIST

Dr. Benjamin Rist served during 1920-24. He came to a church that was enjoying rapid growth in this post war period. He was greatly assisted by Miss Florence Rice as a church visitor, and later by Miss Corrine Ryder. There was a Sunday School of over 550 members with keen alert teachers in all departments. The Epworth League drew over a hundred young people to its Sunday evening meetings. An Intermediate League had been organized by Mrs. Fred Malon. Here over fifty young people, younger than those of the Epworth League, gathered on Sunday evenings for a social hour and the devotional period that followed. Church Night, with a well planned program, became very popular and was instrumental in getting people better acquainted.

It was during Dr. Rist's pastorate that the members of the Loyal Service Class of the Sunday School began the use of flowers or ferns for the pulpit decoration for the Sunday Church services. During the winter months they provided flowers or plants from a florist shop. However, in the summer this task was assumed by W. C. Belman. Many recall the baskets of lovely flowers he brought from his garden each Sunday morning.

Dr. N. F. Forsythe, then a resident of Hammond was very active in the work of the church and Sunday School. He was the Superintendent of Religious Education, and as such, had succeeded in getting his program introduced into the public school. The study was extra and not a required part of the curriculum.

The Methodist, a church paper published by the director of religious education, kept the members of the church well informed about church activities and also items of interest relative to the members of the congregation.

Because of the rapid growth of the Sunday School and the young people's groups, plans were made to add another unit to the church to provide space for these activities. It was the hope of the planners that there would be a good sized gymnasium with a large stage at one end of the room, so that it would serve a double purpose, give a place for athletic activities and also provide space for plays and entertainments sponsored by various church groups. However, some of the members of the Official Board felt that this was not the opportune time to build and so the matter was dropped. Our young people took their disappointment very keenly, feeling that they had been let down by their elders.

THE NEW PARSONAGE

The First Methodist Church was gaining a well earned place in Indiana Methodism, but in order to procure well trained men to serve in the pulpit, the women of the church felt that there should be an attractive parsonage to serve as a home for them.

In spite of all the help the women of the Ladies Aid Society had given the church at various times, thru continuous effort and hard work they had managed to accumulate quite a sum of money. To these brave women must go the full credit of securing the location and the building of our present parsonage. They wanted a building that would be permanent and also be a credit to the congregation it served.

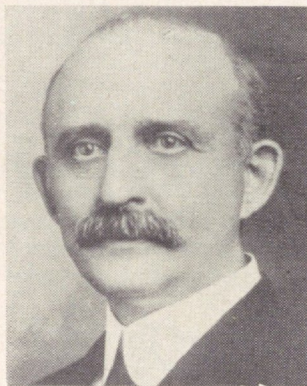
After interviewing various real estate men, they finally decided upon the lot on Webb Street, for which they paid \$1900.00. So the project was started and plans were drawn for the new house. True, some of the men of the church served on the building committee, but this was definitely the Ladies' Aid Society's project. When finished the house had cost about \$12,000.00 making the entire property cost in the neighborhood of \$14,000.00. Dr. Rist and his family occupied the new home during the last year of his pastorate and 38 Webb Street has become the home of the pastors of First Church, Hammond.

1924 - 1927 DR. U. G. LEAZENBY

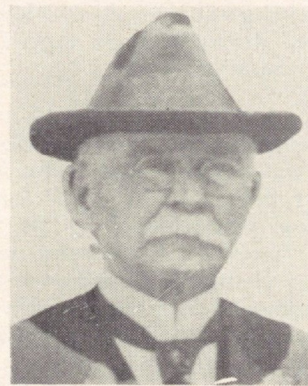
From 1924-1927, Dr. U. G. Leazenby served as pastor at First Church. Dr. Leazenby was a scholarly man of broad experience and brought a fine spirit of co-operation to the congregation. He was greatly aided by the fine work of the church visitor, Miss Corinne Ryder, who was well fitted for this particular phase of church life. Her intensive interest had surely borne fruit in the excellent work carried on by the young women of the church.

The keen rivalry between the Philathea Class, taught by Mrs. Harry S. Brown and the Young Men's Class taught by Charles L. Surprise, drew a large group of young people into the activities of other departments of church life as well as the Sunday School.

But in spite of these crowded conditions, certain members of our Official Board continued adamant against any building program. The church supported a Basketball team which was a leader in the Church Basketball League. But with lack of facilities for practice and games and the decision against providing any, the team disbanded.



Rev. W. S. Switzer
1907 - 1912



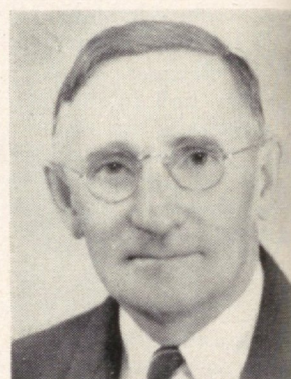
Dr. T. J. Bassett
1916 - 1920



Dr. U. G. Leazenby
1924 - 1928



Dr. C. C. Ford
1928 - 1931



Rev. Elmer Jones
1931 - Feb. 1934



Dr. James Lawson
Feb. 1934 - Dec. 1941

1920 - 1940

About 1924, a number of changes began to take place in downtown Hammond. New buildings appeared on Hohman Street, others were remodeled and given a modern up-to-date face. Theo. Moor had previously bought the little cottage which had served as the parsonage in earlier years. He sold it to Hollis Hunter who moved it out on Fields Street. He remodelled it and made it into a comfortable home. All the houses that had stood along the north side of Russell Street, east of the Church had been moved away.

The town was excited about the projected moving of Tech High School building from its place at the corner of Fayette and Hohman Streets. There was considerable agitation about the project. The ground had been given by M. M. Towle for school purposes. Several leading citizens thought this ground too valuable for school property and were anxious to get it for other building purposes.

Finally after considerable litigation, the School Board was permitted to sell this ground, so they bought the land east of that owned by the First Methodist Episcopal Church. The school building was raised and moved to its present location in 1924. The First Trust Bank building then rose on that corner which had been school property for so many years.

A PRESIDENT VISITS THE CALUMET

In 1927 Wicker Park in Highland, on Ridge Road, had been converted into the largest recreational center in Lake County. It contained an 18 hole golf course, tennis courts, baseball diamonds, picnic grounds, swimming pool, a club house and beautifully landscaped promenades. This beautiful park was to be kept as a recreation memorial to the soldier dead of North Township.

When plans for the dedication of the park were being worked out, it was suggested that it might be possible to induce the President of the United States, Calvin Coolidge, to be present for this ceremony. Several civic leaders went to Washington, D. C., to tender the president this invitation in person. Aided by the efforts of the former United States Senator James Watson, they induced "Silent Cal" to promise to officiate.

The entire region felt the importance of this event. Every precaution was taken to insure the safety of the Presidential party as it made its way to the scene of the ceremony amid all the pomp and splendor such an occasion demanded. Thousands of people from all parts of the Calumet crowded the grounds, hoping for a glimpse of President and Mrs. Coolidge as he solemnly dedicated these grounds to the memory of those who had fallen in World War I.

Nearly twenty years have passed since that day and the park has become one of the favorite outing places of Lake County.

1927 - 1931 DR. C. C. FORD

Dr. C. C. Ford came to Hammond to take over the work 1927-1931. Dr. Leazenby became Field Secretary for Gary Methodist Hospital. Dr. Ford was very energetic and immediately set about making a number of changes. Up to this time the church provided an office but there was no study for the pastor. Dr. Ford thought this was absolutely necessary in order that he might carry on his work more efficiently. He also asked that a church secretary be provided and saw to it that better organized business methods were employed in the church office.

During the real hot summer weather, a change was made in the hours of service. Morning worship began at 8 o'clock followed by Sunday School at 9 o'clock. Many wondered what affect this time change would have upon the congregation. It was really surprising how many people came out to this early service and Rev. Ford felt the effort well worth while.

BUILDING PLANS AGAIN

Again during Dr. Ford's ministry, the question of either adding to the present building or selling it and seeking a new location elsewhere, became one of the main issues of the day. There was even then talk of securing the south-east corner of Ogden and Hohman Streets as a new location. Several meetings were held to try to decide what should be done. All recognized the need of larger and more modern quarters, but, in spite of this, several of the older members of the Church Board continued to fight against the project and were firm in their decision against any outlay of funds at that time.

No doubt they had been wise in being so cautious for the country soon was in the throes of the black days of depression. Thousands were out of work and were forced to apply for relief in order to survive. Some remodeling was done to meet the demands of the Sunday School. The basement had now been made flood-proof and divided into class rooms. Considerable money had been spent from time to time trying to make the church basement usable, but not until that time had the effort of the Church Board met with success. The closing of the great factories and mills had a depressing affect upon the church also. For when men had no source of income, they had no money to help in the support of the church. Several of the banks had closed and people had lost their savings of a life time. These were indeed blue days. Some of our church officers were greatly worried and feared they would not be able to carry on the work of the church as heretofore and possibly would have to limit the number of days per week when the church building could be open for use.



Dr. Benjamin Rist
1920 - 1924



The Methodist parsonage, 38 Webb Street, built in 1922-23

CHANGE IN CONFERENCE MEETING TIME

Up until the year 1930, Methodist Ministers met in conference in September and received their assignments. This action caused many hardships and much inconvenience. Schools opened early in September, in many places on Labor Day or on the Tuesday following. The ministers felt that their children should enter school on the opening day, even though they would be able to attend only a short time, and then would move to a new location to begin all over again. Books would not be purchased until Father knew where he would be that year. This matter was brought before the conference and it was decided that beginning with the next year, Conference would meet in June and the assignments made so that those who were sent to new charges could move and the children enter school on the opening day without the usual delay and inconvenience of former years.

1931 - 1934 — REV. ELMER JONES

Dr. Ford was the first Hammond pastor to make the change, leaving Hammond First Church in June, 1931. Thus the new pastor, Rev. Elmer Jones and his family came after the close of the school year at his former location and had become well established when the Hammond school year opened in September.

Rev. Jones was a fighter and a tireless worker. He was determined that First Church should weather the storm. It was a period of struggle for not only our church, but for all churches in the city. So many were out of work. There were scores of empty buildings. Many families had moved in together in order to cut down expenses.

But thru it all the indomitable fighting spirit and kindness of Rev. Jones won out and a new spirit awoke in the church, drawing the people closer together. First Church did weather the storm due to the courage of its leader and his helpers. But the work of Rev. Jones had attracted attention throughout the conference and he was appointed to serve as District Superintendent of the South Bend District.

Hammond missed the Jones family who had won so many friends while serving the Hammond church. Later Rev. Jones served the Elkhart church, but now he serves as Secretary of the Preachers' Aid Society and has purchased a home in Lafayette, Indiana, where he now lives. However, he and Mrs. Jones are frequent visitors in Hammond as their son, Robert, makes Hammond his home. William, the younger son, entered the ministry and so carries on the work of his father.

A CENTURY OF PROGRESS

The years 1932 and 1933 saw another great fair in Chicago, "A Century of Progress". What an apt name this was as applied to the Calumet which was almost unknown in 1832. Just a trickle of people seeking homes. The wonders of the region could not have been a dream at that time.

As the visitor moved from building to building, he could not help but be amazed at the great change that had come about thru these many inventions and discoveries. The very first and the very latest were there side by side. No expense had been spared in making this spectacle complete.

The grounds along the lake front were easily accessible by train, bus or automobile. Traffic within the grounds was handled by special buses. Well trained policemen kept the outside traffic flowing and accidents were few.

To the older people, the modernistic type of buildings had no appeal. They still felt that as far as beauty of architecture and planning were concerned, the Century of Progress could not compare with the World's Columbian Exposition.

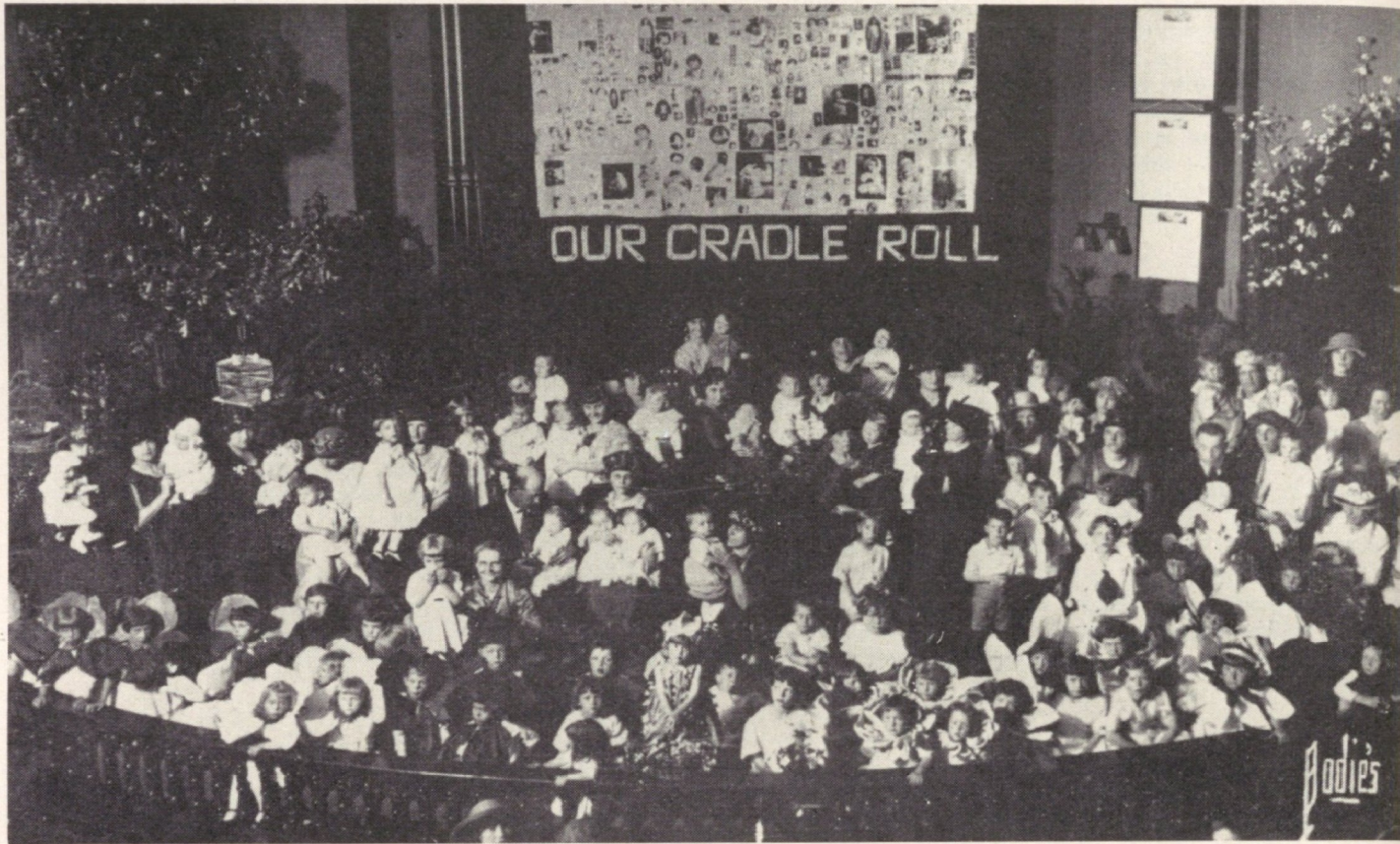
THORNTON FRACTIONAL BURNS

In December, 1933, the whole community was shocked by the misfortune that had befallen her neighbor, Calumet City. Just a few hours before the time set for the annual Christmas concert, their great high school, Thornton Fractional, had been destroyed by a disastrous fire. This was indeed a blow to the community for the loss was so great. Although only a new school, the enrollment had increased so rapidly that it had been necessary to add quite a large addition to the former building. The best and latest equipment had been installed and the citizens were justly proud of this modern school. But how thankful they were this December night, that this terrible disaster had not occurred during school hours, for then the loss of life might have been heavy.

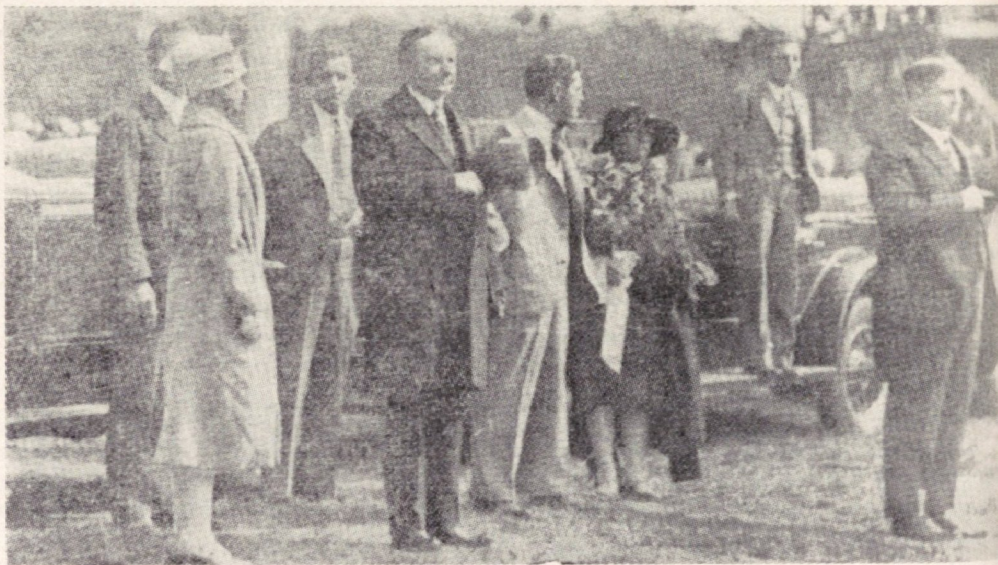
But in a few days plans were perfected to carry on the work. The other school buildings did double service in providing class rooms and students prepared their lessons at home. A new Thornton Fractional High School arose on the old location, modern in every way and well equipped. A sense of security prevailed in the classrooms for all had been assured that no such disaster could occur again, as the new building was fire resistant.

Many of the students and their parents, as well as Principal A. V. Lockhart, and members of the faculty, were members of First Church and so the church family felt keenly the loss these families had suffered.

But out of such disasters some good arises. There was a thorough inspection of all public buildings in Hammond and added precautions taken to correct hazardous conditions. More strenuous warnings were issued against fire dangers and the firemen everywhere warned people to be careful so that such a catastrophe would not occur again. Extra precaution was taken in the building of our two new schools, Edison and Morton, so that the parents and the students should feel that all had been done to make these structures safe.



A Cradle Roll Party. Mrs. A. R. Abbott, Superintendent. The Cradle Roll was Dr. Rist's pet project.



President Coolidge at Wicker Park, 1927

THE COMMUNITY CHEST

There were so many needs during these trying days. Those who had work tried to help those who had not. But the demands of the various charity agencies were so heavy and it was felt that they must have assurance of funds if they were to continue to function. So, although the Community Chest had been in existence for some time, the organization put forth more strenuous efforts to perfect a better service. Instead of people helping, just here and there, the money went into one general fund or chest and the agencies, belonging to this service, were allotted funds, according to their needs and requests. Thus Hammond, like other cities throughout the nation, sought to solicit funds once a year to assure help to the community.

This system did take care of much of the financial giving, but as always there have been other demands made upon the public from time to time. Hammond has been generous in its support of the Community Chest whenever possible, altho there were times when several of the agencies requiring aid were obliged to cut their requests as people found it harder and harder to give as they had before.

CITY HALL

The old city hall on Hohman Street, was out of date, a relic of the town's early days. The city had long recognized the necessity of a modern building but the council had not been able to decide as to location. In the hope of relieving Hohman Avenue of congested traffic it was decided to make Calumet Avenue a thru thoroughfare. With this plan in mind the new City Hall was built on Calumet Avenue, at Highland Street, directly across from Hammond High School.

Numerous stores, a bank and theatre had been built along Calumet Avenue, in this plan to draw business toward the eastern part of the city.

CIVIC CENTER

In order to house many large public gatherings, and especially secure a part of the High School Basketball tournaments, the Civic Center was built on Sohl Street, south of Carroll Street. This large building has accommodated great crowds during Basketball games and other kinds of entertainment. But as some one has said, "Hohman Avenue was the original business street and it will be a long time before it ceases to be the business center."

1934 - 1941 — DR. JAMES LAWSON

Dr. James Lawson came from Detroit to take over the work following Rev. Jones. During this period the program of the church was greatly changed. The early Sunday School hour was discontinued. The worship service of the Sunday School was welded into the worship hour of the morning church service. The combined worship began at 10:00 o'clock with the Sunday School classes forming for study immediately after the church service.

Many questioned the advisability of this change. But Dr. Lawson felt that the young people would gain more from the worship service of the Sunday morning service than from the former worship hour of the Sunday School. Mr. J. T. Otto became the new church secretary and began at once to install business methods in conducting the financial affairs of the church.

GERMAN METHODISTS

In 1935 the German Methodists felt that the burden of expense involved in keeping up their church was becoming too great. So many of the older members were gone. The young people did not approve of services in the German language. Few spoke German and very few understood the sermons. So when the Hungarian Methodists were seeking a church home, they felt that this was a good opportunity for them to dispose of their property and the German Methodist Church became the home of the "Hungarian Methodists". They debated quite a while as to whether they should all join one of the Methodist Churches or whether the individual members should seek a church home of their own choice.

However, many felt that they would feel more at home at First Church. Hence, on April 4, 1935, a large group of these people were received into membership by Dr. James Lawson. First Church was greatly strengthened by these German Methodists. They have been a spiritual power in our midst.

The following people are listed in that group:

| | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Miss Ann Becker | Mrs. A. R. Knott | Mrs. Sophie Seigrist |
| Mr. and Mrs. Roy Beucus | Mr. and Mrs. Harry Kross | Mrs. E. C. Trowe |
| Robert Beucus | Shirley Kross | Donald Trowe |
| Mrs. Ruth (Fischer) Brusch | Jack Kross | Henry Trowe |
| Mrs. Lydia Fischer | Edward Meissler | Margret Trowe |
| Mrs. Louise Fruehling | Fred Miller | Mrs. Chas. Wall |
| Ted Harbrecht | Ferdinand Miller | Mr. and Mrs. Ray Wheeler |
| Mr. and Mrs. Max Knabenhaus | Rudolph Miller | Marvin Wheeler |

In 1937 Rev. J. H. Cox was appointed as assistant pastor and took over the youth supervision. Rev Cox was very popular with the young people and was instrumental in drawing a large number of them into the Epworth League. He remained at First Church until 1939 when he was assigned to the Methodist Church at Monticello, Indiana.



MEMBERS OF THE OLD GERMAN METHODIST CHURCH WHO TRANSFERRED TO FIRST CHURCH
Front row: Mrs. S. Siegrist, Mrs. J. P. Mee, Mrs. R. Wheeler, Henry Burgheer, Mrs. J. Fischer, Mrs. L. Fruehling, Corn. Moor.
Back row: Theo. Moor, Mrs. A. Knott, Miss A. Becker, F. Miller.

METHODISTS UNITE

Throughout the nation there was a movement to unite the Methodist churches into one great church organization. Prior to the Civil War, the church had become divided and throughout the southern states was known as the Methodist Episcopal Church South or Southern Methodists. As the south western states were settled following the Civil War, the settlers organized southern churches also. The Methodist church of the northern states was known as the Methodist Episcopal Church North. Then there was also the Methodist Church Protestant. This movement gained impetus for the leaders felt there was no longer a cause for this great division and that the union of all Methodist factions would add great strength to the cause.

Finally after much argument and many adjustments this great union was accomplished, at Kansas City, in 1939. From that time on as far as Methodism is concerned, there is no North or South, no Episcopal or Protestant as a part of the name, but all became one great organization known as the Methodist Church and from 1939 the First Methodist Episcopal Church of Hammond, became the First Methodist Church of Hammond and the Downtown Protestant church.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Another great change of far reaching results was instituted during Dr. Lawson's pastorate. The Ministerial Association felt the need of a deeper religious observance of the Lenten Season, and especially of Holy Week. The First Methodist Church was selected as being in the best location for these services as it was easily accessible to those in the business district. Daily noon-day services were held during Holy Week with a minister and choir from other churches in charge on different days. The Good Friday Service was the real test of the venture. The ministers had visited all the stores and asked the proprietors to close their places of business during the hours of 12 to 3 p. m. in order that their help might attend the services.

They were somewhat anxious as to the response of the people to this kind of Good Friday observance. But the very first service proved to them that they had been very wise as the response was greater than they ever anticipated. And as the years come and go, First Church has been crowded to capacity on every Good Friday, long before 12 o'clock, the time set for the opening service.

Many people stay only a short time, but others definitely plan their work so that they may stay for the entire service. Every seat is occupied and many are standing as they listen to the beautiful music and "The Last Words" as interpreted by the various speakers.

The culmination of this week of special meetings is the Sunrise Service on Easter morning at the Civic Center.

First Church has truly won a place in the hearts of the people of Hammond. It has truly demonstrated that it is the Downtown Protestant Church, At the Heart of the Calumet.

1941 — DR. PHILLIPS BROOKS SMITH

In the fall of 1941, Dr. Lawson was chosen as the new Superintendent of Gary Methodist Hospital to aid in raising funds for the new wing that was to be added and in building the nurses' home.

Following Dr. Lawson, Dr. Phillips Brooks Smith, the present pastor, came to Hammond First Methodist Church in December, 1941. The dynamic personality and friendliness of the new pastor brought many new members into the church fellowship and the Methodist people soon saw that the present facilities were no longer adequate to care for the large crowds. The Smiths were truly a ministerial family as both Dr. Smith's and Mrs. Smith's fathers were ministers and their two sons, Charles Merrill and Phillips Brooks Smith Jr., both prepared themselves to take up the work their father loved so dearly. Needless to say, First Church is proud of this family.

In the office, Mr. Otto is still on guard and no one gets into the pastor's study without the permission of this kindly gentleman. Due to Mr. Otto's skill in management, the financial business of the church has been completely reorganized and is on a sound basis. Through a consistent pledging of the membership, it has been made possible to handle all special offerings thru the office without their being brought before the congregation and taking time from the service. Everyone is well pleased with this arrangement. He knows the obligations are met as they become due and yet, he has not been constantly reminded that on this or that Sunday, a special offering will be taken for some particular cause.

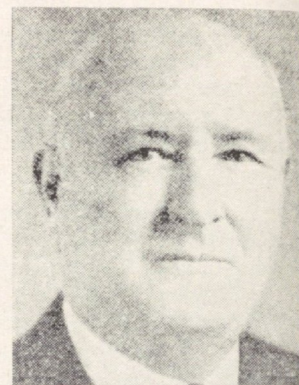
WORLD WAR II

War clouds again had gathered over Europe with Germany again being the aggressor. Existing treaties were violated and boundary lines no longer respected. A fanatical leader, Adolph Hitler, had come into power and was no respecter of the rights of people nor countries, who did not fall in with his ideas. Smaller countries were invaded, their wealth stolen, their people murdered by this madman and his followers, until all of Europe was involved. England was becoming desperate and was exerting every effort to bring the United States into this war to save the Anglo Saxon people. How we hoped that we, as a nation, would not be called upon to send American boys to fight on foreign soil.

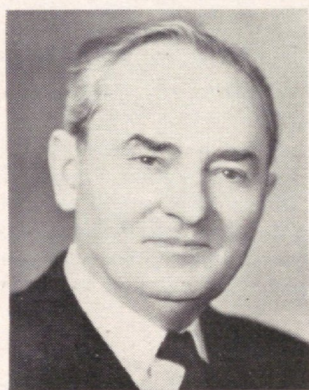
But when Japan treacherously attacked Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, we all knew there was no longer any hope of the United States remaining aloof. Throughout the country the young men were drafted into the armed service and we found ourselves engaged in battle on two fronts.



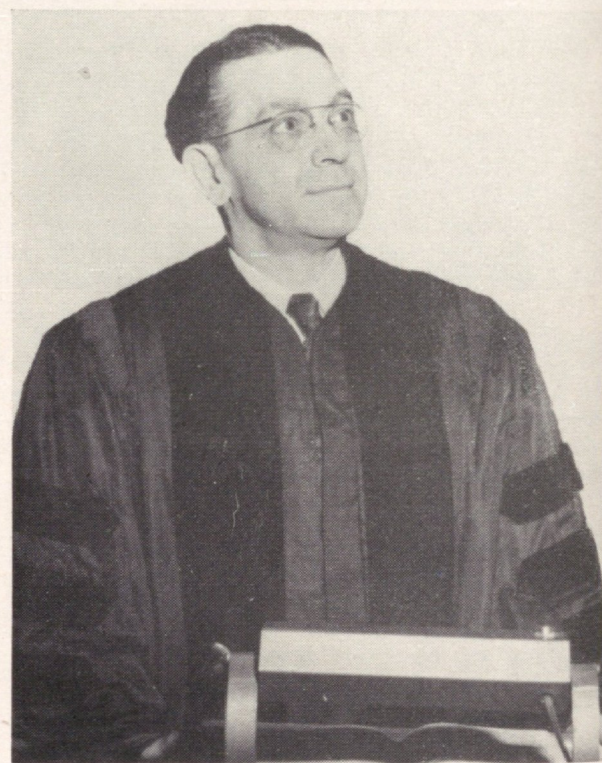
Dr. P. B. Smith



Bishop Titus Lowe



Dr. E. Burns Martin
Supt. South Bend District
1946



A Serious Moment

Young women, who could pass the required examinations, found work in the various branches of the armed services and in Red Cross work.

Two hundred forty-two stars appeared on the service flag of First Church. Five of these stars have been turned to gold in memory of John H. Ingram, John C. Schroeder, Lester H. Cornwell, William A. Purcell and Wilbur Judkins, who lost their lives in foreign lands.

Throughout the years, Dr. Smith, Mr. Otto, and the W.S.C.S. endeavored to keep in touch with these young people wherever they have been stationed. Messages of cheer, long newsy letters and special gifts of inspiring books were sent to each one from time to time, and, especially, as the Christmas season drew near. In every way possible, the people at home wanted our young people to know that the church was thinking of them and praying for their safe return.

1946

The fighting is over and our young people are getting home again, slipping out of uniform, and taking their places in the work of the church. Many have come back so changed and are having a very difficult time in making adjustments. Other young men are leaving to take a place in the Armies of Occupation in foreign lands. The doors to the church stand open at all hours when each and every one may enter to talk over his needs and receive kindly attention and guidance.

THE CRUSADE

One of the greatest movements Methodism has ever known has been put into action. Knowing the great destruction of church property in the countries involved in this second World War and the great need of work to be done, help to be given, as soon as the war should end, and it would be possible for our missionaries to again return to their work in these lands, the great Methodist Church has organized a great Campaign, The Crusade for Christ.

Nineteen Hundred Forty-five was designated as the year to raise the funds needed. This amount was set at \$25,000,000, the sum necessary to send people into the great mission fields, to rebuild destroyed churches, schools, and hospitals and to take Christianity to these people who had lost all and suffered so greatly. Our leaders feel that the only hope of preventing future wars, is in carrying the teachings of Christ to all people. Only through the church is there hope for humanity.

From all parts of the country the money began to roll in. Every Methodist Church, no matter how small, had a part in this work. First Church gladly subscribed \$6000.00. Many wondered how this pledge would be met but, by the time designated for payment, the sum was raised. The women of the Women's Society of Christian Service had raised \$1500.00 of this sum themselves. And so it was demonstrated that when the cause is worthy, Methodism rallies to its support.

Early in 1945 the ministers of the South Bend District were the guests of Dr. Smith and First Church for their meeting. The women of the Executive Board of the W.S.C.S. prepared a bountiful chicken dinner financed by several of the men of First Church, as a gesture of their pride in having this group as the guests of their pastor. Evidently the preachers thoroughly enjoyed our hospitality, as several times afterward we heard them tell of the wonderful day they spent in Hammond.

Again several of the churches under the auspices of the Hammond Ministerial Association banded together to hold a great series of meetings in the Hammond Civic Center. Dr. E. Stanley Jones, who had spent so many years in India, preaching and teaching all who would come, was the speaker. Special music was provided each evening by the choirs of various Protestant churches. People came early and sat spell bound, listening to the words of this great teacher and thinker. 1945 was a memorable year for the church people of Hammond.

BUILDING PLANS AGAIN

The question of more room and expansion seemed ever present in the minds of First Church members. They fully realized they had a problem before them. The church was in great need of repair, cleaning and decorating but the Official Board did not wish to take on this added expense if it were possible to carry out the building program they planned. Tentative drawings showing proposed changes had been made and a building fund started.

However, the great demand for all kinds of material for war use, caused all such plans to be put aside. Seeing it would be impossible to obtain material to go on with the building program, it was decided to go ahead on the repair, cleaning and decorating plans. This meant considerable inconvenience but all were willing to crane and peer around scaffolding in anticipation of the pleasant surroundings they would enjoy later. The entire interior of the building blossomed out in new dress. No part was overlooked, basement, kitchen, class rooms and offices took on a new aspect. New lighting fixtures gave a subdued light instead of the former glare. The new lights in the ceiling of the sanctuary gave forth a mellow subdued glow, that was pleasing to the eye.

In 1946 new outlet fans were installed in the dining room and kitchen, providing ventilation and also preventing cooking odors from being wafted thru the entire building.

One great improvement and one for which the older members of the church were so grateful, was the placing of hand rails on the two front approaches. So many had slipped and fallen on icy steps in years gone by and it was



Christmas Sunday, 1945



In memory of Irena S. Towle



On memory of Nettie and Emma Belman

These pictures are by courtesy of Mr. J. W. Johnson

just fortunate that no bad accident had occurred there. Then hand rails were also placed along the stairway going to the basement. And again the women voiced their appreciation for this had always been a hazardous descent.

Dr. Smith had been appointed as the Secretary of Evangelism during the great Evangelistic Campaign of 1945. His work necessitated travelling and absence, oftentimes, in order to meet the speaking engagements demanded of him. Yet there were very few times when another speaker had the opportunity to occupy the pulpit in First Church. Those who did, felt that they had been offered a rare opportunity.

EVANGELISTIC CAMPAIGN

Nineteen Hundred Forty-six, the year of the Evangelistic Campaign began with an organized effort by all churches of the city, Catholic and Protestant, to visit every one and list church affiliations. After this visitation campaign, the Methodist Church carried on its own every member canvas and also sent visitors to the homes of those whose names had been received by the church, from the city wide effort.

Working on the Committee were Mrs. J. T. Otto, Mrs. H. S. Brown and Mrs. S. L. McCall. These women were assisted by Mrs. C. V. Schubert and Mrs. D. M. Strathern as typists. They organized the work, dividing the city into districts and sub-districts, listing the names and addresses of those to be visited. A meeting of volunteer workers was called and the names of those to be visited, were given out according to the district in which they lived. Reports were turned in daily and checked until all prospects had been visited.

Mrs. J. W. Belshaw, a former member of the church choir, wrote and published a beautiful hymn, "God Is Love", dedicating it to the pastor, Dr. Smith.

THE NURSERY

A nursery for tiny folk has been established in one of the downstairs rooms where parents may leave these little tots in the care of some young girls and enjoy the services upstairs. The girls devoting their time to this work at present are Carolyn Hopper, Donna Heiney and Athene Kouris. The nursery quarters are nicely decorated and everything has been done to make the little ones happy. There are play tables with toys, books and pictures to amuse them and even a crib where a sleeping child may rest. At first the little ones are shy but after two or three visits they are anxious to meet their little friends and play together under the watching eyes of these young girls.

As an aid in the church office, a sound scribe has been purchased. The pastor gives his sermons which in turn are inscribed upon a small disk. When the office secretary is ready to type the sermon, these disks are used the same as any phonograph record and the sermon is typed just as if the pastor were dictating it in person.

VISUAL EDUCATION

Visual education is just as important in the work of the church as it is in the schools. Fully believing that this method of teaching, as well as entertaining, is a great step forward, the church has purchased a moving picture outfit. The church, the W.S.C.S. and the Sunday School have furnished the funds for the purchase, but the use of the machine is not restricted to any one group. Requests for subject matter material must be made several weeks in advance, in order to obtain the desired pictures. All feel that this has been money well spent as so many groups in the church will profit from its use.

CHURCH VOTES

Several members felt that the First Church property should be sold and the money received, applied on the purchase of a new location and the building of a new church in a residential part of the city. There was considerable argument both pro and con on the question. Some felt that the present location was too noisy and too dirty and not fit for a church site. Others felt that First Church had won a name for itself as the Downtown Protestant Church and would lose too much in moving away. They, also felt that the officials of the little chapel had made a mistake when they gave up the land at the corner of Russell and Hohman Streets. This land has become very valuable and they felt the church would do well to profit by this and not make another error.

During the summer of 1946 it was decided to submit two plans to the church membership and their vote would decide what was to be done.

Plan I—Should the church remain in its present location, remodel and modernize, adding necessary units to meet the growing needs?

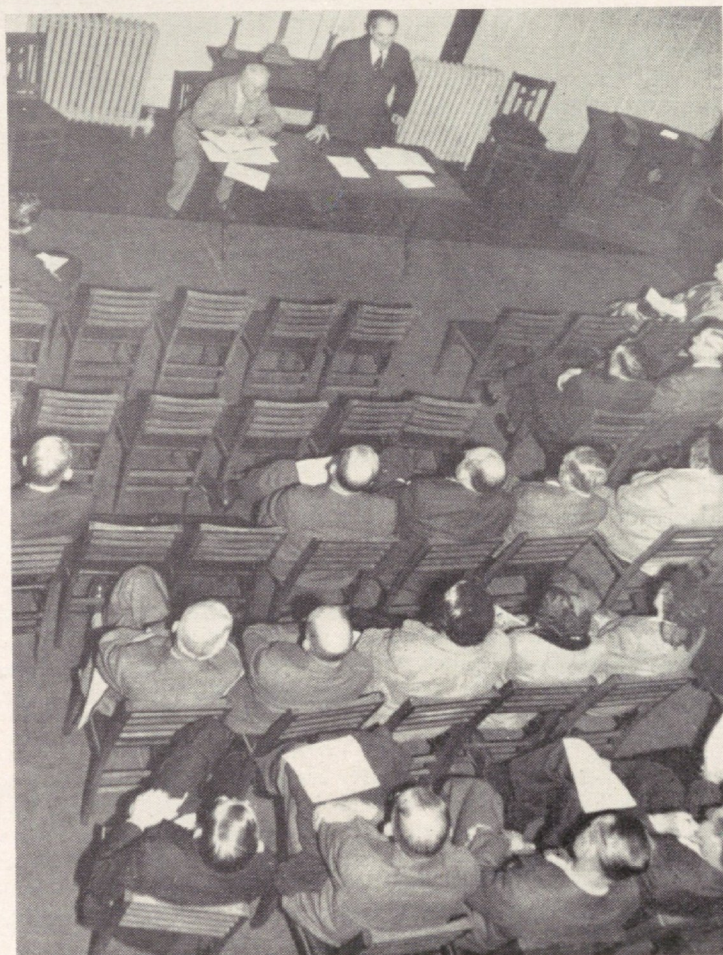
Plan II—Should the present building and land be sold and a new location for a new church be sought elsewhere?

The votes came rolling in daily. The membership of First Church had definitely expressed its opinion. The vote was overwhelmingly in favor of retaining the present site and adding other units to meet the needs of the church.

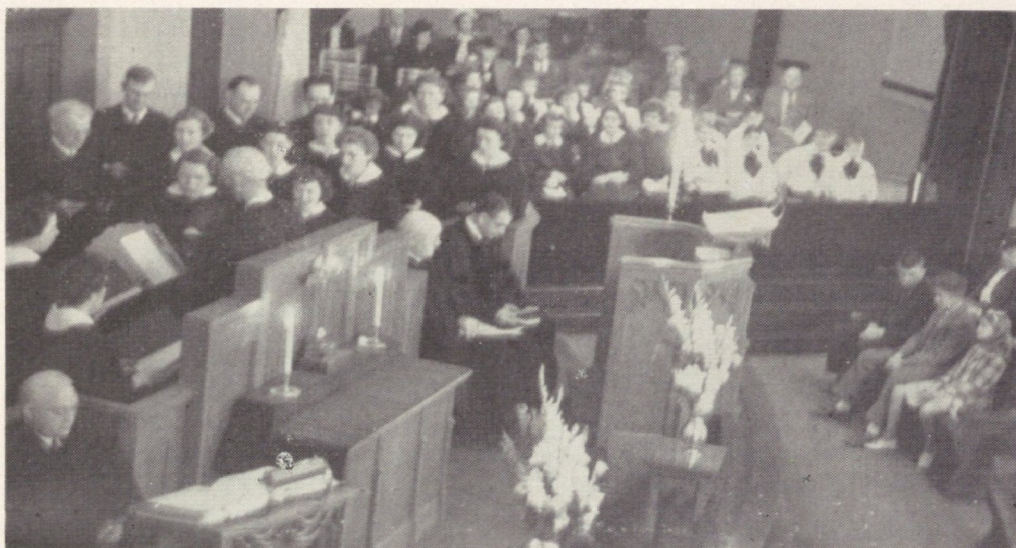
NEW PULPIT FURNITURE

At the time of the redecorating of the church, plans were made to purchase new pulpit furniture also. This furniture was to be purchased thru gifts given by members of the church and also to be of a style and quality that would fit into any remodelling program that would be undertaken.

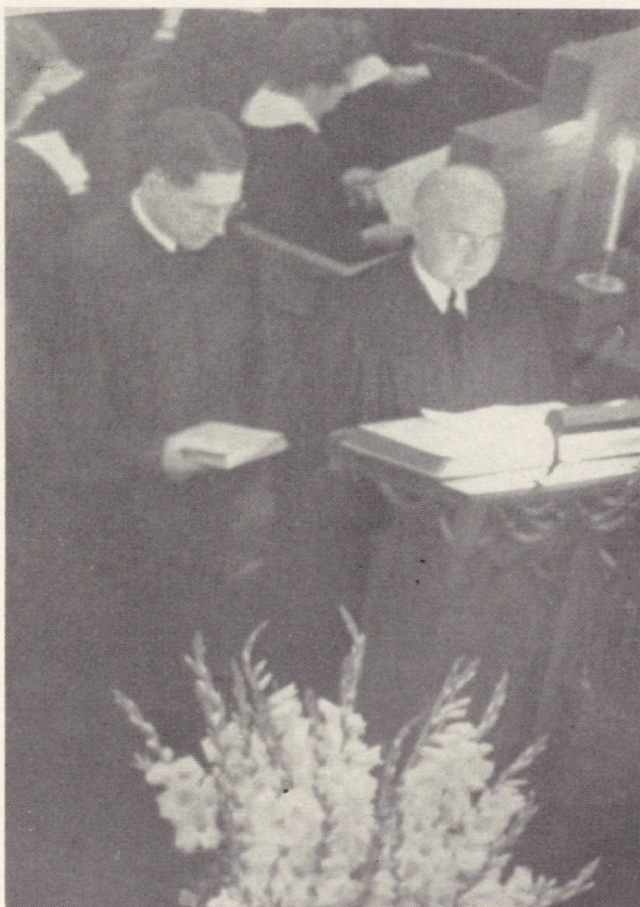
Again war time priorities, made it seem as if this plan would have to be put aside. After a long, long wait the furniture arrived in the early fall of 1946. Ambitious plans were made for its dedication and September 22nd selected as the day. Bishop Titus Lowe had signified that he would be present to help in the services.



Quarterly Conference, November, 1946, Dr. E. Burns Martin, presiding.



At dedication of new pulpit furniture, September 22, 1946



J. T. Malone and L. A. Milne — Sept. 22, 1946



USHERS

First row: F. Miller, R. M. Pierce, R. Beucus.
Second row: J. Davis, J. Hughes and R. Schurneckan.
Third row: W. F. Heiney, G. W. Cravens, R. Williams.
Fourth row: H. D. Blake, F. N. Hopper, H. D. Warner.
Fifth row: J. Adams, D. Warner.

It was a beautiful Sabbath day and people came early so as to be assured of a seat. Lovely flowers adorned the pulpit platform. A full robed choir was present and offered special music. No one, who heard Bishop Lowe that Sunday morning, will ever forget him and his sermon on the "Second Mile".

The following memorials and gifts were dedicated:

Pulpit—Mrs. Lester H. Cornwell, in Memory of Lester H. Cornwell.

Lectern—Mr. and Mrs. Lester Milne, in Memory of Mrs. Anna Milne.

Baptismal Font—Mr. Theo. Moor, in Memory of Dr. and Mrs. J. T. Bassett.

Communion Altar—Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Otto.

Candelabra—Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Otto.

Pulpit Lamp—College and High School Students.

Lectern Lamp—Misses Holley and Carmen McNeil.

Special Gifts—Mr. and Mrs. Harry Peaker, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Shepherd, Mr. and Mrs. S. L. McCall, Miss Laura Baril.

In the afternoon, the Men's Bible Class sponsored a Mass Meeting and fellowship hour at which Bishop Lowe was present.

COMMUNION SERVICE

Another innovation made by Dr. Smith was in the time of the Communion hour. Feeling that this sacred service should have a time of its own, he instituted the Vesper Communion at 4:30 of the designated Sunday afternoon, instead of the communion being a part of the morning worship hour. This change has been looked upon very favorably by the membership of the church.

THE FLOWER BEDS

Much comment has been made regarding the beautiful flowers that have graced the beds on each side of the basement entrance at the front of the church. This is a gift from Mr. John Blume who has taken great pride in beautifying this ground. Each year there has been some change in the arrangement of the flowers, whose gay colors are such a cheerful sight to many people passing along Russell Street. First Church appreciates this kindly act.

THE HANGING OF THE GREENS

Just before the opening of the holiday season of 1945, the Sunday School Board planned to introduce a custom which they hoped would become traditional. They invited all who were interested in helping decorate the church for the Christmas season, to meet together on a chosen night to carry out this work. This service was to be known as "The Hanging of the Greens". After the great tree had been trimmed and the "greens" with their great bows of red had been hung, the merry crowd gathered in the dining room for refreshments. When the 1946 season drew near, plans were again made for this lovely service and so it seems a tradition has been established.

THE CLOSE OF 1946

Dr. A. J. Holmes had been retired as the Superintendent of the South Bend District and was succeeded by Dr. E. Burns Martin of South Bend. Dr. Martin made his first visit to our church on Sunday, October 6, 1946. He held his first quarterly conference November 7, 1946. The official family of the church regretted losing Dr. Holmes but also feel they have a wonderful leader in Dr. Martin.

At the meeting of the Quarterly Conference, Dr. Smith announced that the Board of Trustees of First Church, had authorized the going ahead with plans for building a new educational unit. An architect is to be employed and drawings made of plans for this new building.

As the year of 1946 draws to a close, the W.S.C.S., who carry on so much of the social activities of the church, feeling the need for more adequate kitchen equipment, has arranged for the purchase of new stoves, a gas refrigerator, pots and pans and other necessary utensils.

The decision has been made, First Church remains at its present location and retains the name "The Downtown Protestant Church". True there is smoke, there is noise, there is dirt, but these are the signs of industry, the life of the city and of the region.

The little village is gone. Its founders are gone. The struggling packing house town is only a memory. To many of the inhabitants it is only a legend. A great sprawling city of 80,000 people has arisen where formerly there had been only a crossing of Indian trails, where the small lakes and sloughs furnished a haven for wild life and a paradise for hunters.

There are modern paved streets instead of mud roads. There are smooth cement walks instead of the up-a-step or two and down-again board walks of an earlier day. Horse drawn vehicles and street cars are forgotten in the crowded rush of automobiles, trucks and buses, on the busy streets. Hohman Avenue, like Hohman Road, is still the main artery of trade and traffic. But one travels on a paved surface from Lake Michigan on the North to the Ridge Road on the South, where in early days there grew up a prosperous settlement of thrifty Hollanders, establishing their own churches and schools.

Great railroads cut the city into sections. They are the carriers of the products of the region, the conveyors of materials to and from the hungry mills and factories of the Calumet.



WE ATTENDED THE OLD FRAME CHURCH

Front row: Mrs. F. R. Mott, Mrs. W. A. Hill, Mrs. Wm. Bardens, Mrs. J. K. Stinson,
J. K. Stinson
Second row: Mrs. J. A. Shepherd, Mrs. Orphey Nelson, Mrs. A. S. Hunt
Third row: Mrs. Ethel Holway, R. Evans, Mrs. M. P. Ludwig
Fourth row: Mrs. E. E. Burns, Mrs. Linnie Shugg, Mrs. H. Fryar, Mrs. C. H. Lasater,
C. H. Lasater
Fifth row: H. Fryar, Ewing Best, Mrs. R. Evans
Sixth row: Orphey Nelson, Theo. Moor, Mrs. H. S. Brown



Mrs. F. R. Mott

Mrs. W. A. Hill

These ladies attended services in the little chapel at Hohman and Russell

The small village of a few American and German families, is a city numbering (among its citizens) many nationalities who no longer feel that they are foreigners, but real Americans, the product of this great melting pot.

The tiny group of people of 1872, seeking the better things of life, the good life, the Christian life, have had a dream realized. They founded a church, Old First Church, a Methodist Church whose members are men and women of faith and courage, men and women who dare to build and fight for that which they believe to be right.

Only a few remain to tell the story. Mrs. A. A. Winslow of Crown Point, Indiana, and possibly W. H. Goodman of Forsythe, Montana. Both Methodists today. Mrs. Fred Mott (Agnes Hohman) attended the early church services held in the little school house, the chapel and the frame church, but never became a member of the Methodist group. She became affiliated with the Episcopal Church when that group organized. Mrs. W. A. Hill attended both the little chapel and the frame church, but when the Baptist church was organized she became a member of that congregation. Mrs. Wm. Bardens, an early worker in the Methodist Church, now a member of the First United Lutheran Church, is frequently seen at our morning services.

Just a small group of those who, in childhood, became members of the frame church, continue as members of First Church. Mrs. Louise Kennedy joined First Church by transfer in 1888. Mrs. Ethel Holway (Ethel Streeter) was received into the church fellowship in 1890. Mrs. Harry S. Brown (Alice Cole) 1895, Mrs. O. Nelson (Rose Widmer) 1897. Mrs. Oran Stewart (Bardie Ripley) 1899, Mrs. David Perry (Bird Bradford) 1894 helped in the organization of our Hyde Park Church and is now a member of that group.

Far and wide the Calumet Region is known for its great industries, its steel mills; its oil refineries; its car building plants and allied crafts; and many other great manufacturing plants of different types. Hammond, Whiting, East Chicago, Indiana Harbor and Gary might well be one great city, for they are separated one from the other only by streets as boundaries. Few people live near their place of employment. Excellent transportation permits people to live in Chicago, but to work in the Calumet or live in the Calumet and work in Chicago. Modern highways and the automobile and bus systems make it possible for one to reach his place of employment in a very short time. He may live in a city or have his home several miles away in the country, where in spare time, he works in his garden producing part of his food or tends his flowers and shrubs making his home a place of beauty.

So the members of the congregation of First Church come from all points of the compass in the Calumet region. Truly, as Dr. Leazenby so often said, "Methodism knows no boundaries". People now are unhampered by distance and so many choose their place of worship wherever they so wish.

Down thru the years with Old First! Today she stands near the scenes of her infancy and youth. She has been battered by storm and adversity but has stood firm and strong, winning a place, winning her place "At the Heart of the Calumet". The skies above her are gray with smoke; her skyline pierced by the smoke stacks of many factories, the real "Peace Pipes of the Calumet".

1872—In the little red school house — a forerunner of things to come — a dream.

1882—Twenty-six members, ten probationers. Admitted to Conference.

1946—Seventeen hundred seven members as given June 1st.

Old First Church at the Heart of the Calumet,

A Methodist Church, the first Protestant Church, the first Church in the region.

First Methodist — The Mother Church of Hammond

German Methodist

Congregational — Baptist..... Christian

Plymouth Congregational Presbyterian

Episcopal

Monroe Street Chapel Centenary

Hyde Park



One Sunday in December, 1946



At the close of the morning service, Dec. 1946

The Sunday School

ORGANIZATION

Mrs. H. S. Brown
L. A. Milne

Under the General Discipline of the Methodist Church, the Sunday School is the foundation for the Church Board of Education. The discipline provides that each local church shall organize a Church Board of Education, which shall be composed of the Pastor, the Church School Superintendent, the three Church School Divisional Superintendents; the President of the Young Adult Fellowship; one representative each elected by the Women's Society of Christian Service, the Board of Stewards, and other agencies of the church, and not less than two nor more than four young people. In addition, there may not be more than five members at large, elected by the Quarterly Conference.

This Board is charged with the responsibility for the total religious education of the church in harmony with the standards of the Annual Conference, jurisdictional and General Boards of Education.

Present Sunday School Organization as of 1946:

ADULT DEPARTMENT

Superintendent

| <i>Classes</i> | <i>Teachers</i> |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| Baraca | L. L. Caldwell |
| Philathea | Mrs. Lewis F. Witham |
| Friendly | Mrs. Robt. Long |
| Baraca-Philathea | A. W. Clark |

YOUNG PEOPLE'S DEPARTMENT

| <i>Classes</i> | <i>Teachers</i> |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|
| Business and Professional Women..... | Mrs. P. B. Smith |
| High School Group | Mrs. Mabel Weil |

INTERMEDIATE DEPARTMENT

A. W. Clark, *Superintendent*

| <i>Classes</i> | <i>Teachers</i> |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| Girls No. 1 | Mrs. W. D. Nichols |
| Girls No. 2 | Mrs. John Lucas |
| Boys | A. T. Bolt |
| | Craig Affleck |

JUNIOR DEPARTMENT

Mrs. Geo. Evans, *Superintendent*

| <i>Classes</i> | <i>Teachers</i> |
|----------------|--------------------|
| Girls | Katherine Hosteder |
| | Mary Jane Bohannon |
| Boys | E. W. Johnson |
| | Leonard Heath |

PRIMARY DEPARTMENT

Miss Lois Downs, *Superintendent*

Miss Clara Ihrig
Mrs. A. T. Bolt
Jerry Rush

BEGINNERS DEPARTMENT

Miss Helen Hogue, *Superintendent*
Miss Virginia Osborn, *Assistant Superintendent*

NURSERY DEPARTMENT

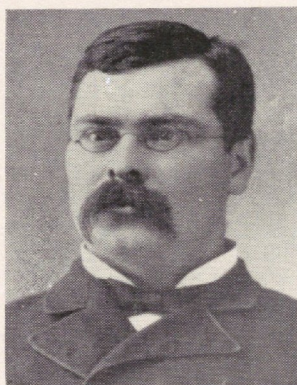
Mrs. Victor Davis, *Superintendent*
Mrs. Lynn McCoy
Mrs. Herman Hamm

Cradle Roll Mrs. J. T. Otto
Director of Religious Education..... Miss Mae Kessing

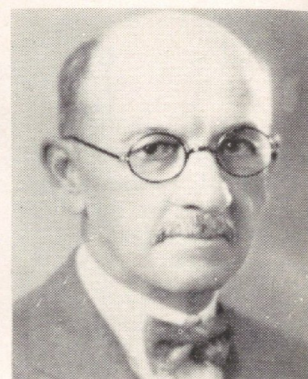
It has been very difficult to secure a definite record of the Sunday School of an early day and we have to depend upon the information given by some of the early settlers. The Hessville settlement was much older than the Hammond and prior to 1873 there was a Sunday School conducted there. When weather and roads permitted there was a good sized Sunday School held in the Hessville School. It seems that this was a well organized school for old and young and most of the time took the place of the church service. Church service was held only when some



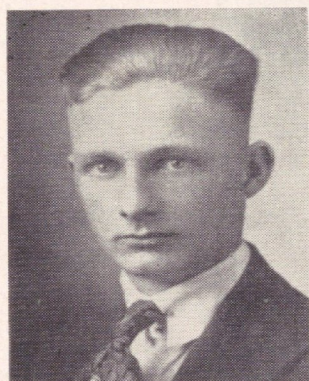
M. M. Towle
First Sunday School
Superintendent



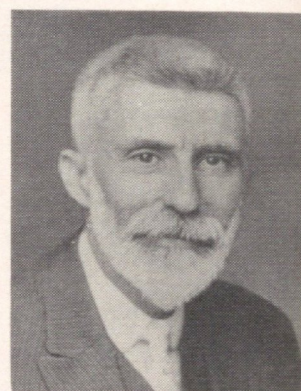
A. A. Winslow
Early teacher. Editor and
owner of the Hammond
Tribune. U. S. Consul.
Served 17 years as Sunday
School Superintendent



J. W. Reed
Sunday School Superin-
tendent. Member of
Official Board



A. W. Clark
President Epworth League
Teacher, Sunday School
Superintendent



W. C. Belman
Educator, civic and church
leader



John T. Malone
Sunday School Supt., 1947



L. A. MILNE, Sunday School
Superintendent, 9 years



J. E. Myers
Sunday School Choirster

visiting student or itinerant preacher came that way. The Goodman, Miller, Hess, and Wolfe families provided most of the members of this school.

There were so few families in what later became Hammond that it was not until 1872 that a Sunday School was organized. A group of interested people met in the little red school house on Hohman Road and founded the first Hammond Sunday School. Most of these people were Methodists, but the school was known as the Union Sunday School in order to get all the families interested.

The first officers were: Superintendent, M. M. Towle; Secretary, Miss Anna Dow; Treasurer, Miss Louisa Sohl (Mrs. J. H. Beall). These people also served as teachers with the assistance of Mrs. M. M. Towle.

The Sunday School filled a great need in the community and for a time was quite well attended by members of these early families. Then interest lagged until there were only a few who came and classes met in some of the homes. In 1879 Porter B. Towle, a newspaper editor, had come from Massachusetts to make Hammond his home. He reorganized the school which, for a time met in the school house which stood between Michigan Road and Indiana Street, and then moved to the Central Block.

In 1880 our chapel was built on the ground now occupied by the Northern Indiana Public Service Building. It also was known as the Union Chapel, although those who were leaders in the work were mostly Methodists. P. B. Towle had kept up an active Sunday School. He was succeeded by Otto Morbeck as Superintendent and then by A. A. Winslow. Then came our definite organization as the Methodist Episcopal Sunday School, continuing to meet in the Methodist Chapel until the white frame church was erected on our present location.

At this time, 1883, the Hammond Methodist Episcopal Sunday School was the largest Sunday School in Lake County. Many years earlier a Sunday School convention had been organized in Lake County. Some meetings had been held as early as 1847 but no formal organization records have been found prior to 1866. Hammond Methodist Episcopal sent its first representative to the convention in 1883. At the 1887 meeting our Rev. Edmondson was the "speaker of the day". Our Sunday School reported a membership of 199. In 1889 the school had a membership of 242 with 16 teachers and officers. This year the Hammond Methodists entertained the Sunday School Convention and the women of the church served a "bountiful vestry supper".

The year 1890 saw a greater growth in the Sunday School. Officers: Superintendent W. C. Belman, F. H. Tuthill, Asst. Superintendent A. A. Winslow, Sec. Miss Belle Weed, Asst. Sec. Miss Flora Wakefield, Treas. Mrs. J. W. Dake, Librarians Miss Ida Fisher, J. W. Reed. Teachers Rev. G. R. Streeter, Mrs. G. R. Streeter, Mrs. Frank Nason, Miss Luna Freeland, Miss Kate Weed, Mrs. Freemont Nason, Miss Luella Parks, E. Hunt, Miss Sara Daggett, Mrs. J. H. Beall, Mrs. D. C. Mead, Miss Jessie Hunt, Mrs. E. Hunt, E. Kiersey, Nellie Parker, Miss Alice Johnson, Mrs. Wm. Parker, Mrs. H. W. Sohl, Mrs. J. W. Dake, J. W. Dake and Miss Alice Sohl.

Scholars: Lena Weed, Bertha Bump, Eva Bump, May Barton, Myrtle Prichard, Sadie Beck, Lydia McKnight, Cynthia Snodgrass, Maggie Stevens, May Tilton, Hattie Wilson, Laura Hildebrand, Jessie Hunt, May Lancaster, Ida Hisey, Allie Hisey, Lizzie Munchenburg, Mary Munchenburg, Bertha Vaness, Letha Gillette, Lulu Gillette, Lottie Corwin, Addie Jordan, Edith Wall, Mary Gutschlag, Maud Bell, Addie Bump, Isabelle Daugherty, Lottie Wendrinsky, Myrtle Wakefield, May Wakefield, Will Newman, Hal Jones, Harry McCoy, Colfax Duncan, Duncan Hunter, Ezra Railsback, Frank Stevens, Chas. Daugherty, Emma Weeks, Nellie Weeks, Effie Orcutt, Clara Knuchal, Cleora Webb, Lela Carson, Mary Kepert, Edith Flint, Anna Schwieger, Sadie Morrison, Nellie Smiley, Lulu Parker, Grace Bell, Alice Bump, Ethel Campbell, Gertie Bostwick, Alice Green, Barbara Schweitzer, Ed Newman, Guy Jones, Bert McCoy, Leo Beck, Dick Jenkins, H. A. Kendall, Henry Decrow, Henry Daugherty, Mame Ramey, Inez Carson, Maud Borem, Abbie Griswold, Laura Hatch, Kitty Gerish, Eva Paine, Grace Miller, Alta Parker, Myrtle Ramey, Carrie Wolf, Anna Parker, Beatrice Ross, Emma Paine, Mable Wilson, Estella Stacy, Nellie Green, Linnie Towle, Will Mead, Sam Malo, Harry Stowman, George Borem, Melvin Fleming, Archie Ballard, Will Ramey, L. A. Thayer, Roland Lewis, Vern Odell, J. W. Reed, Elmer Malone, F. O. Robinson, Geo. Peters, G. Hunter, G. Taylor, Robert Balls, J. W. Hardesty, Frank Warren, Arnold Lusher, George Hinds, N. W. Snodgrass, J. Meeker, Thomas Jenkins, Chas. Hunt, Will Hocker, Chas. Washington, Edward Mashino, Dan Scoates, Fred Wendling, Louis Carrigan, Leslie Skellinger, Bert Skellinger, Oliver Wakefield, Jessie Glover, Bertha Bouser, Emma Bouser, Della Siegrist, Freda Siegrist, Calvin Beck, William Beall, Ben Mead, Clayton Root, Wilbur Abbott, Zora Carrigan, William Hunt, Harry Stamm, Dena Malo, Chas. Borem, Lizzie Heron, J. G. Ibach, T. M. Smith, H. C. Zoll, Mrs. L. Beck, Nina Pattee, Thos. Malo, Frank Malo, Arthur Porlier, Claude Campbell, Elmer Wolfe, Robert Stature, Ethel Streeter, Julia Logan, Mabel Benedict, Bertha Hayes, Lotta Post, Millie Flagg, Nellie Points, Nellie Fowler, Birdie Bradford, Daisy Clark, Faye Carson, Rilla Flagg, Deanna Zander, Anna Anderson, Jennie Olson, Mary Hansen, Myrtle Crowell, Chas. Gehrke, Will Jones, Alfred Borman, Ford Hunter, Carl Vermett, Geo. Shelinger, Ellis Dake, Bert Newman, John Malo, Elbert Zoll, Lela Zoll, Katherine Walters, Anna Sesser, Emma Kungs, Mary Kokler, Audra Hunter, Ella Workinger, Anna Dumke, Ethel Dake.

Primary Class, Miss Alice Sohl, Teacher—Jim Mead, Beryl Woods, Edith Goodman, Volney Post, Ethel Crowell, Linnie Crowell, Arlie Parker, Vern Parker, Willie Keiser, Hattie Crumpacker, Charlie Crumpacker, Maud Cleveland, John Simon, Clarence Simon, Willie Hooker, Myrtle Phillips, Charlie Walker, Dora Hogue, Anna Haines, Pearl Thompson, Florence Thompson, Warren McMannis, Frank Bradford, Lulu Baldwin, Willie Mattis, Hattie Holtz, Edna Randolph, Robert Martin, David Martin, Jessie Vaneas, George Miller, Claude Bealle, Ethel Merrill, Virginia Stamm, May Newman, Fred Towle, Gotlieb Vonish, Rosa Vonish, Pearl Beck, Minnie Mead, George Mead, Mary Dumke,



Mrs. G. R. Streeter's Sunday School Class — 1922

Mary Keizer, Ernest Keizer, Mathew Hutchinson, Maggie Hutchinson, Guy Merrill, Albert Gauger, Richard Gauger, Evaline Horn, Willie Huttel, Anna Schultz, Amelia Schultz, Carrie Schneider, Hattie Schneider, Alvin Green, Frank Beck, Alice Cole, Pearl Hast, Laura Bell, Mabel Green, Adine Lenz, Eleanor Lenz, Louisa Rich, Lillie Rich, Lulu Kitchel, Clarence Kitchel, Ora Thatcher, Charlie Schneider, Jessie Boyd, Martha Kimball, Willie Behring, Fred Behring, Elva Fisher, Hiram Green, Nellie Walker, Amelia Mundt, Minnie Mundt, Rindie Kergan, Emma Miller, Mary Hermon, Amelia Fromer, Mary Fromer, Birdie Stein, Ida Gutslauch, Walter Sohl, Edith Nason, Grace Wilson, Arthur Hillman, Robbie Hillman, Clarence Porlier, Charles Kuhn, Mary Hoover, Henry Hoover, Roy Hatch, Frank Baker, William Hutson, Eugene Davis, Ava Flickinger, Grace DuComb, Mabel Wilson, Eva Kinney, Claude Hunt, Ray Hunt, Laurine Washington, Lizzie Huckleberg, Emma Jones, Vada Marshall, Margaret Livingston, Jimmie Hatch, Olga Dumke, Elma Schneider, Weedie Jones, John Kunz, Paul Kunz, Lizzie Hahn, Mayme Mashino, Willie Green, Clara Jirard, Grace Loch, Earl Cole, Lona Fisher, Lela Shields.

Many of these people have been gone these many years. Many of them are familiar names on other church rolls. Many are scattered in distant parts of the country, but as one scans the lists of names, he cannot help but notice the great change that has come about since that time. With the exception of a few German and Swiss, these people were of old English stock, showing that there was scarcely a bubble in this great melting pot of the Calumet at that time.

Some will say they are sure some of these people were Baptists, Presbyterian or Congregational. No doubt they were. All must bear in mind that the Methodist Sunday School met in the afternoon while the other schools met in the morning. Since there were no picture shows, ball games, skating rinks or other forms of amusement to attract children and young people, they attended Sunday School and the Methodist School benefitted greatly by having the afternoon hour.

These people came from all kinds of homes, poor as well as rich. They knew no class distinction. They were Hammond at the beginning of the "Gay Nineties". How many of these old names can you recall? In the rapid growth of the Calumet region, they have been forgotten. As many of you read through these pages, you will go back in memory to days that were happy and gay and seemingly free from the worry of modern life. You will recall many you had not thought of for a long time. Possibly there will be a smile on your face and a light in your eyes as you recall the days when you, too, attended some Sunday School Class in the frame church on Russell Street. You will recall the clear sounding bell and the tall spire that seemed to stand as a watch tower above the people.

Many, who were children in this primary class will remember how they watched storm clouds as they gathered over the town and how, when the storms had passed, they ran to see if the tall spire of the church were still standing, fearing that it might be gone and joyful when they beheld it safe. They were sure that if destruction came to it, Hammond was indeed a wicked town, as the ministers of the churches so often preached from their pulpits, or God would not destroy a church like this. However, when they saw all was well, they quickly returned to their play, happy in the escape, and promising to be better boys and girls in the future, so that they could live in a favored town.

The Sunday School has been served with competent sincere officers and teachers proud of the task they performed.

SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS

| | | | |
|------------------------|-----------|--------------------------------|-----------|
| M. M. Towle | 1872-1877 | J. W. Reed | 1907-1908 |
| Porter B. Towle | 1878-79 | T. F. Spellman | 1909 |
| A. A. Winslow | 1880-1884 | C. H. Lasater | 1910-1911 |
| Otto Morbeck | 1885 | Fred Prechtel | 1912 |
| A. A. Winslow | 1886-1888 | year finished by C. H. Lasater | |
| W. C. Belman | 1888-1889 | L. B. Whitezell | 1913-1916 |
| F. H. Tuthill | 1889-1890 | W. C. Belman | 1917-1918 |
| W. C. Belman | 1890-1891 | W. Mayes Martin | 1919-1920 |
| A. A. Winslow | 1892-1893 | Roy Tweedle | 1921-1923 |
| W. W. Parker | 1894 | C. B. Hickman | 1924-1927 |
| H. Kiersey | 1895 | A. W. Clark | 1927-1928 |
| A. A. Winslow | 1896-1897 | Forrest D. Cooley | 1929-1930 |
| W. C. Belman | 1898-1899 | Kenneth Clark | 1931-1932 |
| A. A. Winslow | 1900-1902 | C. C. Weedman | 1933-1934 |
| J. W. Reed | 1903-1904 | T. R. Deethardt | 1935-1936 |
| T. F. Spellman | 1905 | L. A. Milne | 1937-1946 |
| W. C. Belman | 1906 | J. T. Malone | 1946- |
| A. A. Winslow—15 years | | | |
| W. C. Belman—10 years | | | |
| L. A. Milne 9 years | | | |

Period of service is the full calendar year.

It was indeed a task to teach a class of wriggling boys and girls and hold their attention during the allotted lesson study time. Nevertheless, the children and young people were punctual, anxious to be in their respective places for the opening songs. Soon the older people of the church became interested and had an interesting Bible Class



CLASS TAUGHT BY C. H. LASATER

(2nd) F. Hinkle, (5th) Friedley Johnson, (6th) Hugo Webb, (9th) Howard Golden
(10th) Clure Burge, (11th) Ralph Buhler, (12th) Donald Gavit



CLASS TAUGHT BY C. H. LASATER

Boy on floor is Clarence Muehlberger now Dr. Clarence Muehlberger, well-known toxicologist

organized. Often times arguments arose over certain phases of the lesson discussion, and some of the members became quite excited as they expounded their theories, much to the amusement and also bewilderment of the younger students.

The Primary Class, in its own room, had its own particular songs and lessons. Those meeting in the larger room paused to listen to the young voices as they sang, Precious Jewels, Jesus Wants Me for a Sunbeam, or Can a Little Child Like Me.

As was stated before, the first Primary teacher was Mrs. M. M. Towle followed thru the years by Mrs. A. A. Winslow, Miss Sohl, Mrs. Beall, Miss Shattuck, Alice Cole, Bessie Ripley, Mrs. Sarah Thompson, Miss Sohl taught in this department for twenty-five years.

Other teachers who served long and well thru the formative years and later, include: W. C. Belman, A. A. Winslow, Rev. G. R. Streeter, Mrs. G. R. Streeter, Mrs. D. C. Meade, Miss Luella Parks, Mrs. Etta Dake, Miss Luna Freeland, Miss Leona Appleby, Mrs. C. D. Bostwick, Mrs. Leslie English, Guy M. Wells, Miss Mabel Wells, Judge Ibach, Mrs. W. C. Belman, Mrs. J. G. Ibach, H. C. Zoll and for more recent years, Charles Surprise (young men's class) Florence Rice, Miss Ethel Ebright, Mrs. Marian Gilchrist Lewis, Mrs. Agnes Jackson Kraft, Mrs. Mary Snyder, Mrs. Harry S. Brown (Philathea), A. W. Clark, Mrs. Robert Long, Mrs. C. H. Crews (Philathea), Mrs. Otto, Mrs. Victor Davis, Mrs. Crary, Mrs. Eber Adams, Mrs. Lewis Witham (Philathea), C. H. Lasater, L. L. Caldwell and many others.

Teaching a Sunday School Class today is much different from teaching in the early days. In those days, any one, who was a member of the church, knew his Bible and had the ability to make a lesson interesting, met all the requirements. Today our teachers are well qualified and trained for their work. They not only know their subject matter but know methods of presentation also. Many of them have been, and are members of the Hammond Public School staff. There is no haphazard method in teaching the Sunday School lesson today.

There have been seasons of great growth in the Sunday School and then again, there were years when the interest seemed to lag.

From the organization of the Sunday School in 1872 until 1906, the expenses of the Sunday School were considered a part of the church expense. However, Rev. Smith felt that each department of the church should stand on its own feet. Under his new reorganization plan, the interest in the Sunday School work greatly increased until the record shows that as we left the old frame church, this department had a membership of 246. Offerings were much larger and all supplies were now paid for by the Sunday School itself. This was considered quite an achievement.

During the years that followed, interest in this work increased until it became one of the liveliest departments of the church. There were lively, rousing Sunday School songs, capable leaders and orchestras led by J. A. Davis, Chas. Griswold and Wm. O'Donnell.

The half-hour of music preceding the opening service of the Sunday School, was a great drawing card and by 9:30 a. m. the auditorium of the church was well filled.

In later years, some of the pastors did not approve of an orchestra in the Sunday School and so this part of the service was discontinued.

There have been some very strong classes in First Church Sunday Schools that should have special mention. For thirty years Mrs. Dake taught a boys' and then a young men's class. W. C. Belman always was a popular teacher of the Bible Class. He was a student and thinker and as he expounded the lesson, the members of the class felt that they indeed sat at the feet of Wisdom.

Mrs. W. C. Belman began teaching a class of young boys and was promoted with them year after year. She trained them as they entered their High School life and held them together for many years. Her home was always open to them and they found a warm welcome whenever they chose to go. Some of those boys are now found in the business and professional life of Hammond and have made a name for themselves as men of strong character.

During Dr. Rist's pastorate, the Loyal Service Class had been organized to meet a special need, that of the young married people. When they held their social and business meetings both husband and wife could attend together and they could take the children also. The children looked forward to these evening meetings as well as their parents did and they, too, became a part of the church organization.

When Chas. Surprise came to Hammond, he immediately identified himself with the Methodist Church, the Epworth League and the Sunday School. He became interested in young men and thru his occupation made many contacts and was instrumental in getting many of them into the Sunday School.

He taught one class seven years and another fifteen years. He was friendly and knew each member of his class personally. This personal interest of the teacher in these young men was a great drawing card and so it was not unusual to find the north section of the sanctuary filled by this class.

Possibly there were other factors that helped keep up the interest of this particular group. Just across the aisle was a class of young women, many of them teachers in the schools, others having positions in the business life of the city. This was the Philathea Class taught by Mrs. H. S. Brown. Keen rivalry existed between these classes and often over periods of time there were contests in the number in attendance and size of the offerings. At the end of the contest the loser would entertain the winning group. How well they conducted and attended these social affairs, has been



Chas. Surprise and Sunday School Class—About 1925

demonstrated in the number of weddings that resulted. Many of these people are leaders in various departments of First Church work today.

PHILATHEA

Mrs. Geo. Gilchrist — Mrs. Walter Barnes

In 1920, the Sunday School Class, which is now known as Philathea, was organized by Miss Florence Rice, who also was its first teacher. The class, however, was not affiliated with the world wide organization until 1926, when it received its charter. It has continued to grow until at the present time it numbers some 90 members.

The word Philathea means: "Lovers of truth". The platform is: Young women at work for young women, all standing by the Bible, the Bible School and the Church. The motto is: Win the one next to you. The flower is the rose. The colors are light blue and white. The text is: I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

The financial obligation of Philathea is a pledge of \$60.00 to the Lebanon Children's Home. We raise this allotment by pledges of \$1.00 each, payable half in November and half in March.

The class meets regularly on the first Monday evening of the month. Meetings are business and social. The class has a calendar year book listing all meetings, committees, officers and members.

The teachers and their respective years of service are:

Miss Florence Rice1920-1922
Mrs. Harry S. Brown1922-1929
Mrs. C. H. Crews1929-1938

Mrs. J. H. Cox1938-1939
Mrs. Lewis Witham1939-

The presidents and their respective years of service are:

Mrs. Ethel Reed Jonas1920-1921
Mrs. Kathryn Hosteder1921-1923
Mrs. Agnes Jackson Kraft1923-1925
Mrs. Florence McKay Mills ...1925-1926
Mrs. Grace Evans1926-1927
Mrs. Lillian Collins Reuter ...1927-1928
Mrs. Marian Gilchrist Lewis ..1928-1929
Mrs. Dorothy Gilchrist1929-1931
Mrs. Ellen Lindeman1931-1933
Mrs. Ethel Boone1933-1934

Mrs. Bonnie Franklin1934-1936
Mrs. Elizabeth Will1936-1937
Mrs. Emily Deethardt1937-1938
Mrs. Frances Johnson1938-1940
Mrs. Mildred Broadwater1940-1941
Mrs. Angie Holloway1941-1943
Mrs. Norma Carr1943-1944
Mrs. Gertrude Adams1944-1946
Mrs. Juanita Landon1946-1947
Mrs. Martha Wendell.....1947-1948

IN MEMORIAM

Mrs. Mary FitzgeraldJan. 24, 1936
Mrs. Ruth WagnerFeb. 17, 1937
Mrs. Ruth StreighteffJuly 30, 1939

Mrs. Mary LuddersJune 11, 1940
Mrs. Alma HathawayJuly 4, 1943
Mrs. Amy ChristiansonJuly 23, 1944



Mrs. Clarence Jonas, First
President of Philathea



Philathea, Mrs. H. S. Brown, Teacher, 1924



Philathea — Mrs. C. H. Crews, Teacher, Mrs. H. S. Brown, Assistant, 1932



Philatheas — Mrs. Lewis Witham, Teacher, 1946



The Friendly Class, 1939; Mrs. Robt. Young, Teacher



The Friendly Class, 1946 — Mrs. Robt. Long, Teacher



1946 CHRISTMAS PARTY OF BARACA-PHILATHEA CLASS—At home of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Swisher, Jr.
On floor: Lynn Steinmetz, Mrs. Steinmetz, Mrs. D. Decker, F. Swisher
Seated: Mrs. M. Wheeler, Mrs. R. Ramsey, R. Ramsey, Mrs. Swisher Sr., Mrs. V. Bond, Mrs. R. Downey, O. Neal, Mrs. Bloomberg, Mrs. O. Neal, Mrs. Reed, R. Willis
Standing: Mrs. F. Swisher Jr., Mr. F. Swisher Sr., R. Downey Jr., V. Bond, E. Ruks, Mrs. Willis, J. Lucas, D. Decker, A. W. Clark, Teacher (not present)



L. L. Caldwell and Baraca Class — 1947



"Christmas with the Jones Family" by the Sunday School, December 22, 1846



The nursery during morning service, 1946



Miss Virginia Osborne and class — 1947



Miss Lois Downs and class — 1947



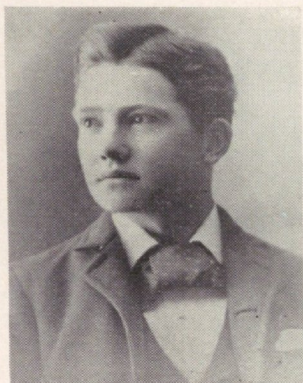
Teacher, Jerry Rush — 1947



Miss Ihrig and Class — 1947



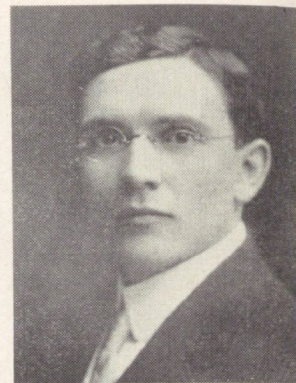
The Sunday School Board, J. T. Malone, presiding, Mrs. Jabes Nelson, Secretary.
1947



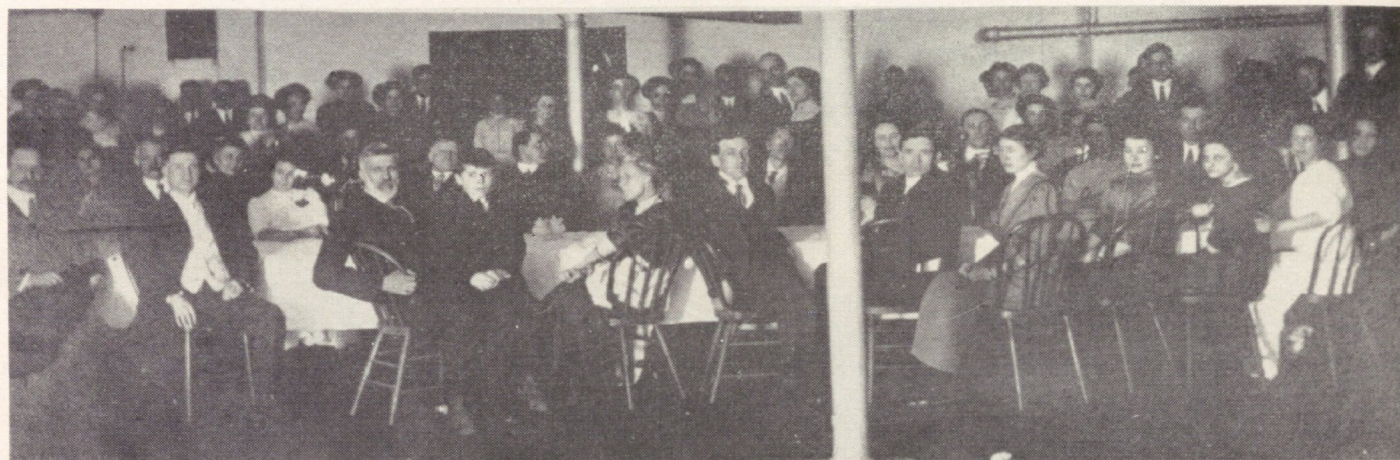
Guy M. Wells
First President of the
Epworth League



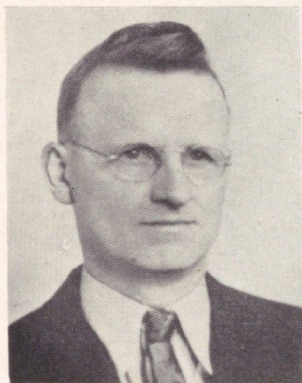
C. Oliver Holmes
President Epworth League



Chas. Surprise
President Epworth League



Epworth League Banquet, January, 1912



F. W. Malon
President Epworth League



A. W. Clark
President Epworth League



L. A. Milne
President Epworth League



Rev. Eugene Balsley
Director Wesleyan Founda-
tion Purdue University

The Epworth League

ARTICLE I. This organization shall be known as the Epworth League of the First Methodist Episcopal Church of Hammond, Indiana, and shall be subordinate to the Quarterly Conference of said church. It shall be a chapter of the Epworth League of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

ARTICLE II. The object of the League is to promote intelligent and vital piety in the young members and friends of the Church; to aid them in the attainment of purity of heart and in constant growth in grace and to train them in works of mercy and help.

ARTICLE III. Members shall be constituted by election of the Chapter, on nomination of the Cabinet. 2. The pastor shall be ex officio a member of the Chapter and of the Cabinet.

ARTICLE IV. The work of the League shall be carried out thru four departments as follows: 1. Department of Spiritual Work. 2. Department of World Evangelism. 3. Department of Mercy and Help. 4. Department of Literary and Social Work.

ARTICLE V. The officers shall be a President, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President, Third Vice-President, Fourth Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Junior League Superintendent.

2. The President, who shall be a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, shall be elected by ballot on a majority vote. The other officers, who shall be members of the Methodist Episcopal or other evangelical church, shall be elected in the same manner, except the Superintendent of the Junior League who shall be appointed by the pastor.

The work of the various officers was the same as that of officers of their kind in any organization.

It should be noted that these young people had very definite ideas as to the behavior or conduct of any League member as shown in the following: "In cases of immorality, unchristian conduct, or neglect of duty, the chapter at any regular called meeting, may, by a majority vote of the members present and voting, exclude the offender upon the recommendation of two-thirds of the Cabinet. The accused shall have the right to be heard by the Cabinet before any decisive action is taken.

The Pledge: I will earnestly seek for myself, and do what I can to help others attain, the highest New Testament standard of experience and life. I will abstain from all those forms of worldly amusement forbidden by the Discipline of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and I will attend, so far as possible, the religious meetings of the Chapter and the Church, and take some active part in them.

Only a few sections of the Epworth League Charter are quoted here. But these few give an idea of the sincerity of the people who pledged themselves to League membership. The work of the League was financed through monthly dues and collections.

Due to the nature of the settlement of Hammond, and the establishment of the early church, whose followers were representatives of various Protestant beliefs, when a young people's group was formed, it was known as The Young Peoples' Christian Endeavor Society. In doing this, it was felt that all the young people of these groups would be attracted. It was an attempt to bring right thinking young folk together in a group of their own kind. In so doing, they would conduct their own meetings, interest other young folk in a religious life and thru their social department, offer the right kind of entertainment and friendship.

When Rev. Streeter came to Hammond several other Protestant Churches were perfecting their own organizations and putting up houses of worship. So, now the Methodist group felt that they had enough young people, and others interested in young people, who could form their own society. Early in 1892, these folk met together and formed a Chapter of the Epworth League of the Methodist Episcopal Church. The Hammond Chapter was No. 11412.

The regular worship service was held every Sunday evening at 6:30. The business meeting was the first Tuesday evening of the month. When necessary a special Cabinet meeting was called to consider matters of importance.

Guy M. Wells was the first President of the new organization. He was an ardent, sincere worker, and truly had a great influence for good, upon the young people who worked with him.

The main office of the Hammond Packing Company offered many kinds of business employment to young folk. Many had come from other places to make this growing new town, their home. The recognition of young women in business was a new departure and several of the graduates from the local schools, found employment there. This was a step forward in the community as so few avenues were open to the young women seeking employment.

As these new comers became established, they sought a place in the religious and social life of the town. The Methodist young people really made use of their opportunities and succeeded in enrolling a great number of new comers in their League.

For that time, there was quite a little wealth in the community and a number of attractive homes were being built, especially to the south in the Homewood district. Many of the women, anxious to display the change that had come about in their economic life, opened their homes for the social programs of the League.

Recall the Langdon, Towle, Kasson, Belman, Wilcox, Godfrey, and Parker homes? These social gatherings were well attended and many wished that they might occur more often.



Epworth League Cabinet — 1921



We're from Hammond — 1928

About twenty young people attended the organization meeting. There were others who, not quite so young in years, were just as young in spirit. Among those listed as charter members were Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Belman, Mrs. Etta Dake, Guy Wells, Mable Wells, Ida Belle Daugherty, Anna Parker, Lulu Parker, Ethel Streeter, Elbert Zoll, H. C. Zoll, Martin Frame, Oliver Holmes, Mrs. A. A. Winslow, Mrs. G. R. Streeter, and Stephen Ripley.

The Epworth League was ever a strong bulwark of Church life. Many of those active in church work today, began their training in Epworth League work.

As changes came about in our church organization, the Epworth League became a part of the past. In 1939 the Youth work became known as the Methodist Youth Fellowship. Since no accurate record of this department of the church work is available, it has not been possible to list all of those who served so ably nor the years in which they held office. The following are people who served ably and well while the League was in existence:

| | | | |
|-----------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Guy M. Wells | Grace Brooks | L. A. Milne | Grace Tweedle |
| J. Wesley Reed | Charles Surprise | Fred Malon | LaVerne Crary |
| John Bolsby | Theo. Moor | Marion Gilchrist | Betty Rogers |
| Martin Frame | C. J. Ewing | A. W. Clark | Frances Rogers |
| Oliver Holmes | Gordon Williams | Rose Kessing | Harold Heath |
| Susan Bomberger | Frank Martin | Kenneth Clark | Harold Knight |
| | Paul Stewart | C. C. Bonnell | |

The young people from our Epworth League have found their places in the business and educational fields of their time. Some went into Y.M.C.A. work, others became social workers; others entered politics and are known for their just and sincere dealings.

During the last years of the League, one of the very active members was Eugene Balsley who chose the ministry as his work. Rev. Balsley is now the Director of the Wesleyan Foundation at Purdue University. 1946.



Miss Agnes Dyer, Teacher
and organizer of the Meth-
odist Ladies Aid Society,
1881



Mrs. E. R. Stauffer
Former President Ladies
Aid Society



Mrs. L. English
Early President of Ladies
Aid Society



Mrs. C. H. Crews
Former President Ladies
Aid Society



Mrs. W. A. Jordan
Former President Ladies
Aid Society



Mrs. J. W. Reed
Member of Choir, Ladies
Aid and Missionary
Societies



Mrs. A. A. Winslow,
charter member of early
Methodist Church, 1882



Mrs. F. B. Evans
Former President Ladies
Aid Society

The Ladies Aid Society

Church women say that the men do all the talking and planning, but that they, the women, really do the work. It seems that there is considerable truth in this statement, for thru the years, the Women's Societies of the church have been the power in the church machinery.

Having this fact in mind, about 1882, Miss Agnes Dyer, later Mrs. Jaquish, and a sister of Mrs. A. A. Winslow, organized the first church women's group in Hammond. This was called the Methodist Ladies Aid Society.

This group of valiant women found untold tasks for them to perform but they found willing hands also. There is no doubt that it was due to their tireless efforts, that the early church was able to meet its obligations. Wages were low, the community was new and there was so much to be done. Houses must be built and paid for, thus assuring the people homes for themselves and their families.

Many times it was necessary for the women of the little church, to actually go from house to house seeking funds to help pay their bills and claims. People were kind and gave to the best of their ability.

Down thru the years, the tireless efforts of the Ladies Aid furnished the money to buy the fuel to keep the church warm, paid the custodian, bought song books, paid the conference claims, the decorating, bought the carpets and made it possible for the minister to go to conference with a good report.

Sometimes a timely gift of \$100.00 from some political candidate seeking the church vote, seemed almost too good to be true and was gratefully received.

Where did the Aid Society get the money to do all this work? They gave suppers for the public, made rugs, quilted quilts, sold Christmas cards conducted various entertainment courses and used any and every means suggested that would aid them in procuring money.

After the congregation moved into the frame church, there was more opportunity for entertainment of a cultural nature. There was much more room and there were more comfortable seats.

More women became interested in the Society's work and the women began a systematic savings account.

When the present church was built the Aid Society pledged themselves to pay \$1800.00 toward the new building. This was a large sum for them to raise but they were a determined group and unafraid.

No doubt the outstanding project of the society was the building of the parsonage on Webb Street. The men assisted in getting the plans drawn, interviewing contractors and giving freely of their advice. Here again it was demonstrated that "The men did plenty of talking but the women did the work." The parsonage remains a monument to their tireless efforts.

It was not intended, however, that there should be nothing but work for these women of an early day. The Aid dinners were truly social affairs. Friend met friend, neighbor met neighbor and all joined in making these affairs successful. These gatherings were a common meeting place for all. The bars were let down; there was no stiffness of formality, but a happy, cordial, warm feeling of fellowship.

There were several nice homes large enough to accommodate the afternoon group meetings. It was at these gatherings that the sewing, weaving and quilting took place and the preparations made for the annual bazaar.

Those attending the Aid Society Bazaar and supper felt that they were attending a county fair as all sorts of articles were on display and for sale. They were the culmination of a year's work of nimble fingers; a display of artistry and ingenuity and also the means of raising much needed funds.

With the exception of Mrs. A. A. Winslow* and Mrs. B. E. Escher, it is not known whether any of those who belonged to the early society are still living. Mrs. Dake, Mrs. Jordan, Mrs. Belman, Mrs. Towle, Mrs. Ripley, Mrs. Whitby and many others who labored so earnestly, are gone. A few who worked in the frame church are frequently seen in our worship service. But they feel that they have served their time and that younger women should take up the work that they lay down.

There is no record of these early days but as near as it has been possible, we have listed the following ladies who served as leaders of the Ladies Aid until the organization of the Women's Society of Christian Service in 1940.

Mrs. Agnes Dyer Jaquish
Mrs. A. A. Winslow
Mrs. C. C. Smith
Mrs. Leslie English
Mrs. Geo. Randolph

Mrs. J. H. Whitby
Mrs. E. R. Stauffer
Mrs. J. G. Ibach
Mrs. C. L. Wolfe
Mrs. L. S. Smith

Mrs. H. A. McConnell
Mrs. A. E. Wilcox
Mrs. W. A. Jordan
Mrs. C. H. Crews
Mrs. F. B. Evans

* Mrs. Winslow now deceased, 1947.



Ladies Aid Society Group at the home of Mrs. B. E. Escher on Plummer Street about 1900

The Women's Foreign Missionary Society

*Mrs. H. S. Brown
Mrs. J. T. Otto*

Although Women's Foreign Missionary Societies had been organized as early as 1869, their growth was very slow. Their first Thank Offering was not held until 1884. This work of the women did not have the support of the men in their families. They felt that this was misplaced effort and that there was plenty of work for the women in their own churches, without their bothering about the black people of Africa or the heathen Chinese. So when collection plates were passed for the annual Thank Offering, they looked the other way, thus more forcibly voicing their disapproval.

Due to the fact that the Methodist congregation was made up of people of many denominations, who had felt their number insufficient to support their own churches, missionary societies were not organized. Many of these people were not missionary minded, and the pastors of the church felt it wiser to go along with them and afford them a church home for a time. They felt that in doing this, they were really performing their duty to the community. The women worked diligently in the Aid Society and helped wherever they could in local church work.

The years 1887 and 1888 saw a great change in the Methodist congregation as new religious groups became established. The members of the church also began to feel that they were really establishing their identity now.

Hence in 1889 when Rev. Streeter came to Hammond, the congregation was thinking along Methodist lines. Mrs. Streeter was an ardent believer in spreading the gospel to those people in other lands, who had not had the privileges offered here. Wherever she went in making her calls, she talked "Missions". The women began to catch her enthusiasm, and in spite of the men's attitude, they decided to form a Women's Foreign Missionary Society in Hammond.

They made their plans and late in 1889 a group of about fifty women met in the church and formed the new society.

Since Mrs. Streeter, being a conference organizer of Foreign Missionary Societies, knew so much about the work, she was made the first president of the group and served until in 1893, when Rev. Streeter was sent elsewhere.

The work was inspiring and instructive. Their studies acquainted them with the life and work of many different peoples. Their money went to the support of workers in far off Mission fields in India, Korea, China, Africa, Japan or the Philippines.

In order that the young women and the children might be taught the work of the society, special groups had been organized in the King's Heralds and the Little Light Bearers.

They raised the money for their work by gifts, Thank Offerings, dues, entertainments, sale of Christmas cards, bake sales or whatever opportunity that was offered them. It was wisely expended to do the most good to the greatest number or where the need was greatest.

Their giving was not all in money, however. They furnished clothing, medical supplies, children's outfits, supported scholarships and mission schools in foreign lands, and the School of Missions at Battle Ground.

As the years' work of the Women's Foreign Missionary Society came to a close, the following women served as officers:

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| President | Mrs. J. T. Otto |
| Vice-President | Mrs. Charles Franklin |
| Recording Secretary | Mrs. Frank R. Finck |
| Corresponding Secretary | Mrs. Geo. Cravens |
| Treasurer | Mrs. Robert Long |
| Christian Stewardship | Mrs. Fred Malon, Mrs. A. W. Clark |
| Mite Box Secretary | Mrs. W. H. O'Donnell |
| Membership | Mrs. Frank Noland |
| Standard Bearers | Mrs. L. A. Milne |
| King's Heralds | Mrs. J. T. Otto |
| Little Light Bearers | Mrs. L. Fruehling |
| Literature | Mrs. A. Anderson |



King's Heralds, 1925



Hike and weiner roast, King's Heralds, September 1935.

Members

Mrs. Arthur Anderson
 Mrs. S. W. Batsel
 Mrs. J. D. Braund
 Mrs. J. W. Belshaw
 Mrs. Leo Christianson
 Mrs. A. W. Clark
 Mrs. James Campbell
 Mrs. Geo. Cravens
 Mrs. Frank Crary
 Mrs. J. W. Curtis
 Mrs. C. H. Crews
 Miss Rebecca Daily

Mrs. Chas. Franklin
 Mrs. L. Fruehling
 Mrs. Carl Houser
 Mrs. A. F. Lindeman
 Mrs. James Lawson
 Mrs. Robert Long
 Mrs. Fred Malon
 Mrs. H. A. McConnell
 Mrs. T. W. McCall
 Mrs. Lester Milne
 Mrs. Frank Noland
 Mrs. W. H. O'Donnell

Mrs. J. T. Otto
 Mrs. E. R. Pfeiffer
 Mrs. J. W. Reed
 Mrs. T. J. Rusine
 Mrs. Mary Snyder
 Mrs. Lelah Short
 Mrs. Carl Finck
 Mrs. J. W. Johnson
 Mrs. Frank Leas
 Miss Matson
 Mrs. John Cook
 Mrs. J. R. Hall

Extension Members

Mrs. Mary Blodgett
 Mrs. Curtner
 Mrs. T. Deehardt
 Mrs. Lillian Gilchrist
 Mrs. B. F. Hathaway
 Mrs. Jacob Fischer

Mrs. S. L. McCall
 Mrs. J. W. McAleer
 Miss Flora Snyder
 Mrs. W. S. Shearer
 Mrs. L. B. Whitezel
 Mrs. C. C. Wiedman

Mrs. Walter Nichols
 Mrs. J. Kennedy
 Mrs. Gertrude Specker
 Mrs. W. A. Jordan
 Miss Ann Becker
 Mrs. Rose Morris

Presidents 1889 - 1940

Mrs. G. R. Streeter
 Mrs. J. H. Whitby
 Mrs. E. R. Stauffer
 Mrs. G. R. Streeter

Mrs. R. F. Duncan
 Mrs. Christopher
 Mrs. D. E. Akers
 Mrs. Mary Snyder

Mrs. Frank Leas
 Mrs. Geo. Cravens
 Mrs. J. T. Otto

Mrs. G. R. Streeter had been presented with a certificate of Perpetual Membership in the Women's Foreign Missionary Society. She had been so interested in Foreign Missionary Work for years and had served well as the Conference Organizer in Lake County. And so she was greatly pleased when this recognition came to her and cherished it, for it had come as a gift from her Sunday School Class of women she had taught for so many years.

March 11, 1930, was a red letter day for Mrs. Mary Snyder who had been deeply interested in Missionary Work. At the close of the program for that day she was presented with a lovely gift from her Sunday School Class; a Life Membership in the Women's Foreign Missionary Society.

Miss Rebecca Daily was also presented with a gift, the placing of her name on the 70th anniversary membership list.

The Society supported two scholarships, A Bible Woman in China and a Bible Woman in India. The latter was thru a gift to the Society by Miss Flora Snyder.



Watermelon Party. King's Heralds — Mrs. J. T. Otto's back yard — 1938



King's Heralds, 1939 — Marilyn Bolt, Hostess



Watermelon party. King's Heralds, at the home of Mrs. J. T. Otto — 1940



Children's S.C.S., 1941 — J. T. Otto, back yard.



HOME MISSIONARY MEETING AT LA PORTE — 1938
 Mrs. S. L. McCall, Mrs. M. Hughes, Mrs. L. Fruehling, Mrs. F. Noland, Mrs. A. F. Lindeman.



Mrs. G. R. Streeter
 Organizer of Women's
 Foreign Missionary
 Society



Mrs. E. J. Doolittle
 Secretary Women's For-
 eign Missionary Society

The Women's Home Missionary Society

FIRST METHODIST CHURCH

Mrs. S. L. McCall

HAMMOND, INDIANA

The ladies of the First Methodist Episcopal Church met in the church parlor Tuesday afternoon, August 25, 1898 with Mrs. L. K. Showman of Hobart, Ind. Conference organizer of the Northwest Indiana Conference for the purpose of organizing an auxiliary of the Women's Home Missionary Society.

Mrs. J. H. Whitby was elected chairman. After the devotional exercises, Mrs. Showman was introduced and she proceeded to present the work of the society.

Those present resolved themselves into a committee of the whole and it was decided to organize.

Miss Alice M. Sohl was elected Secretary pro tem.

The following officers and secretaries of departments were elected:

| | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| President | Mrs. J. H. Whitby |
| 1st Vice-President | |
| 2nd Vice-President | |
| 3rd Vice-President | Miss Leona Appleby |
| 4th Vice-President | Mrs. M. M. Towle |
| 5th Vice-President | Mrs. Calendia Curtis |
| Recording Secretary | Miss Alice Sohl |
| Corresponding Secretary | Mrs. S. Parker |
| Treasurer | Mrs. T. F. Spellman |
| Secretary Mite Boxes | Mrs. Jennie Schroeder |
| Secretary Supplies | Mrs. E. J. Doolittle |
| Secretary for Young People | Miss Madeline McCabe |
| Manager of Mother's Jewels | Mrs. S. Wilcox |
| Visitor at Large | Mrs. E. J. Doolittle |
| Solicitor for W. H. M. | Mrs. Emma Baker |
| Solicitor for C. H. M. | Edna Randolph |
| Secretary of Leaflets | |
| Superintendent of Reading Circle | |
| Program Committee | Mrs. T. M. Longmuir |
| | Mrs. J. W. Reed |
| | Mrs. H. L. Kay |
| | Mrs. E. B. Escher |

Mrs. Showman made a few closing remarks and the meeting adjourned.

Alice M. Sohl, Recording Secretary

At the call of the President, Mrs. J. H. Whitby, the Executive Committee met at her home Tuesday afternoon, August 30th, 1898.

Devotional exercises were conducted by the President. The Secretary then read the Constitution and By-Laws of the Auxiliaries.

The day for the regular meeting was fixed on the first Tuesday in each month.

A motion that we hold our regular meeting at the homes of members of the society was made and carried.

The following committees were appointed:

Committee to prepare constitution and by-laws for the society, Miss Alice Sohl, Miss Leona Appleby and Mrs. J. H. Whitby.

Committee on Membership—Mrs. S. Ripley, Miss Leona Appleby, Mrs. J. W. Reed, Mrs. E. J. Doolittle and Miss Alice Sohl.

Mrs. E. J. Doolittle invited the society to meet with her the First Tuesday in September. Invitation accepted. Adjourned.

Alice M. Sohl, Secretary.

When the Women's Home Missionary Society of the M. E. Church held its first meeting in the home of Mrs. E. J. Doolittle Tuesday afternoon, September 6, 1898, the president, Mrs. J. H. Whitby, presided and also "conducted the devotional exercises".

During the business meeting the constitution and by-laws as presented by that appointed committee were adopted. A motion was made and carried that once a month on the evening of the day of regular meeting, a supper would be served—"the number of articles served at said supper be limited to six"—"it was decided to serve a supper on the evening of the following meeting—for which ten cents should be charged". It was soon discovered that quarterly

suppers were preferable to the monthly ones. They were usually served in the home in which the regular meetings were held in the afternoon preceeding the supper. From eighty to "about one hundred persons were served from 5 to 8 and there was always an interesting program of music and readings following the supper. The receipts varied from \$7.00 to \$10.00. The first supper was served October 4, 1898 to "about eighty persons" and the receipts for the evening were \$8.25. This is recorded as "a success financially as well as socially."

When the present church was being built the auxiliary decided to take out a bank book (Sept. 1906) for the purpose of keeping money for the Memorial Window. This window has the Home Missionary Society Emblem and the name of the auxiliary on it.

Each year for many years, the presiding Elder, upon request, sent the name of a needy pastor and family on the frontier—and a "barrel" was filled with clothing and supplies and sent for Thanksgiving or Christmas.

Besides supporting a deaconess and having a share in Miss Middleton's training for missionary service, special work in Marcy Center, Alaska, Honolulu and among negroes in southern states, was financed during early years of the society. Help was also given in our own city by buying shoes and clothing for individuals whom they knew were needy. Since missionary education was provided for all age groups thru Mother's Jewels, Home Guard, Queen Esthers and Adults, The Hammond Auxiliary was a well organized society. In 1921 under the superintendency of Mrs. Gherke, there were 225 babies enrolled as Mother's Jewels, the highest enrollment in the conference. A silver cup was awarded to the Hammond "Jewels" in 1925 as a reward for attaining the largest membership that year in the conference. The Home Guards was an interesting active organization for junior and intermediate boys and since it had a large enrollment with average attendance of 30-40 boys at each monthly meeting during the "20s" many young business men in Hammond today, recall with pride those days of missionary education and fun under the supervision of Mrs. E. W. (Irene) Dedelow, the organizer and superintendent of the Home Guards.

Since the women were alert to needs in their own community, it is not surprising that they endeavored to do something for the foreign mothers and babies in North Hammond because, due to the continued unemployment and strangeness in our community, many babies did not have proper food or care. Thru the untiring efforts of Mrs. Dedelow, the North Side Baby Clinic was opened on May 10, 1928 in the basement of the Centenary Methodist Church. Here babies were brought regularly weekly to be weighed and mothers were given instructions in proper care and feeding formulas. It was a clinic for "Well babies to keep them well". The first year 184 babies, not all babies of foreign parentage, were examined and given feeding formulas. The voluntary services of Dr. J. L. Emenhiser added greatly to the success of this undertaking. Thru the city nurse and Mrs. W. G. Burkett, one of our auxiliary members who knew the Polish language, and others who visited in the homes, it was found there was a great need for a loan chest. Many babies were born in homes where there were no sheets, pillow cases or blankets, comforters or clothing for the new baby. The local missionary society contributed annually to this supply cupboard. The necessary equipment such as metal cabinets, baby and adult scales, examining table and doctor's robe was donated by the Betz Medical Supply Co., and Carl Nelson, the druggist, provided tips, tongue blades, gauze, cod liver oil and various needed supplies.

After the depression days waned, the clinic was closed except for the supply cupboard which remained available until 1943. Among the members of the Missionary Society, who gave unstintingly of their time and service regularly, were Mrs. Dedelow, Mrs. Burkett, Mrs. W. A. Jordan, Mrs. T. W. McCall, and Mrs. Louise Fruehling.

Among those who served as presidents of the Woman's Home Missionary Society from 1898 to 1940:

| | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------|
| Mrs. J. H. Whitby | Mrs. Julius Dunsing | Mrs. R. F. Duncan |
| Mrs. E. R. Stauffer | Mrs. T. J. Bassett | Mrs. S. L. McCall |
| Mrs. A. E. Wilcox | Mrs. E. D. Bennett | Mrs. F. W. Malon |
| Mrs. N. E. Tinkham | Mrs. C. E. Hollett | Mrs. T. W. McCall was president at |
| Mrs. E. A. Gilson | Mrs. E. C. Hill | time of unification. |

Members of the early Woman's Home Missionary Society were:

Mrs. J. H. Whitby, Miss Alice M. Sohl, Mrs. E. E. Spellman, Mrs. W. W. Merrill, Mrs. B. F. Curtis, Mrs. Ida Longmuir, Mrs. John Jordan, Mrs. E. J. Doolittle, Miss Emma Appleby, Mrs. M. M. Towle, Mrs. J. W. Reed, Mrs. Isabelle Coorcannon, Miss Leona Appleby, Mrs. E. R. Stauffer, Mrs. L. H. Ray, Mrs. A. S. Nowels, Mrs. W. F. Schroeder, Mrs. George Post, Mrs. E. A. Wood, Mrs. A. Chamberlain, Miss Helen A. McClelland, Mrs. W. J. Miles, Mrs. H. E. Petyt, Mrs. Aaron Wood, Mrs. J. H. Beall, Mrs. Norma Mudge, Mrs. C. A. L. K. White, Mrs. J. W. Houser, Mrs. Newton Zoll, Mrs. J. H. Dunsing, Mrs. Maude Sprague, Mrs. W. Spellman, Mrs. Armstrong, Mrs. Jennie Smith, Mrs. Nora Wilder, Miss A. McClair, Mrs. Etta Dake, Mrs. Mary Vedder, Mrs. Ethelia McAleer, Mrs. Belle Bloomhoff, Miss Sylvia McClair, Miss Capitola McClair, Mrs. A. E. Wilcox, Mrs. Nellie Landon, Mrs. Bertha Hutton.

THE HOLLETT RYDER AUXILIARY

Mrs. Clarence Jonas

The Hollett Ryder Auxiliary of the Women's Home Missionary Society, numbered among its members, the girls who were charter members of the Queen Esther Circle, organized in 1915. This was quite a record as it showed that these girls had been banded together in Missionary work for over twenty years.

The first superintendent of this group was Mrs. C. D. Bennett. When Dr. T. J. Bassett came to serve as the new pastor, Mrs. Bassett "mothered" this group during her four years stay in Hammond. In 1918 Mrs. C. E. Hollett became the superintendent of the group. She kept the girls alert and aware of their Missionary responsibilities and was a great inspiration to them. Mrs. Hollett served until 1924 when she left Hammond and went to live in Chester, Pa.

During the following three years Miss Corinne Ryder sponsored this group. Then when Miss Rider was forced to give up this work in Hammond, it was suggested that the girls name their organization after the two women who had meant so much to them. Thus they became the Hollett-Ryder Auxiliary. The members had long since passed the Queen Esther age limit, and could no longer carry on under that name. They now felt strong enough as a group to carry on without a superintendent. They also preferred to continue in their own group rather than join the adult Missionary Society and break up the circle of girls who had worked together so long.

In memory of these women who had done so much for them, they paid \$300.00 for the furnishing of a room in the Nurses' Home at Gary Methodist Hospital. A plate on the door of the room bears the Hollett-Ryder Auxiliary name.

An outstanding event in their early missionary work was the barrel of dolls which they supplied and dressed and sent to Alaska for delivery at Christmas time. No doubt many of these young girls shed a few tears as they packed their own dolls for shipping so far away, for now they realized that they were definitely putting aside their childhood days and taking up the greater tasks of life.



W. H. Goodman
First Choir Leader



Mrs. A. A. Winslow
Charter member of early
Methodist Church, 1882
Soloist



Miss Margaret Shugg
Organist and Soloist



M. M. Towle, Jr.
Mr. Towle gave the present pipeorgan in memory
of his father. 1911

Music Department

Theodore Moor
Mrs. H. S. Brown

Methodists love music. They feel that the songs of the church and the choir offerings form a very important part of the service, and should be given the same sincere attention and preparation that the pastor gives to his sermon.

When the early church was organized, there lived in Hammond a family of considerable musical ability. This new church gave the family a much desired opportunity and in the records of our first choir are found the names of L. C. Porlier, Clara Porlier, James Porlier, Lillie Thurston, and her sister, Mrs. M. H. Baum. In a short time W. H. Goodman, coming from the Hessville district, joined the group. Mr. Goodman, having a fine tenor voice, became the choir director and was serving in this capacity when the white frame church was built in 1883. When the new church was dedicated Mrs. A. A. Winslow, Miss Cynthia Wood, Miss Anna Smith, Miss Emma Mott, Mr. and Mrs. D. W. Miller, and a Mr. DeCrow had joined the choir. The organist was Helen Winslow Blackwood. The choir, now quite lively and ambitious, undertook the production of a cantata, a parody on a current musical comedy, "A Grasshopper Sat on a Sweet Potato Vine". Their production was a success and a social hit, and rivalled the first bazaar the Ladies Aid held.

Following Mrs. Blackwood, Mrs. Miller became the organist and served until the great fire, which destroyed the carriage factory, caused this family to be sent elsewhere. T. W. Dunk then became the organist and was followed by C. W. Gill.

The choir had grown considerably and was attracting much attention because of the ability of several of the members. During this time Eva and Bertha Bump and J. W. Reed had joined the group along with Jessie Clark, Katherine Parker, Charles Daugherty, and Henry Daugherty.

Up to this time, a small cottage organ had provided the musical accompaniment. In 1891, Miss Alice Sohl presented the church with a Reed pipe organ in memory of her sister, Harriett. At the dedication of the new organ, there was a special program of music. Mrs. William Myler, a sister of Mrs. G. R. Streeter, and Mr. Charles Griffin, the father of Mrs. L. L. Bomberger, sang a duet. William Beall, a nephew of Miss Sohl, had been studying music under Prof. Charles Haven and Dr. Louis Folk of Chicago and now became the new organist, serving from 1892 to 1895.

In 1898 Clark Leaming, a young singer came to assist Rev. Appleby with his revival meetings. Later in 1899 after his graduation from DePauw University, he returned to Hammond and became the choir leader. He also organized a large class of piano and voice students and was a member of the Hammond Choral Society. During this time, Mr. Leaming continued his studies in voice, piano and pipe organ. The choir attracted new singers of great ability and it became the ambition of many young people to become a member of the Methodist choir which was acquiring quite a reputation throughout the region. New members of the choir were Rachel Saunders, J. W. McDonald, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Kay, Lulu Bloomhoff, Harry Voight, Alice Bump, William Spellman and Wilbur Kay.

Mrs. J. W. Bonner followed Mr. Beall as organist and was succeeded by Margaret Shugg and then by Edith Roberts until 1902, when her family moved to Chicago. During this year Theodore Moor, coming from the German Methodist Church, joined the choir and became the new organist serving until 1920.

In 1910 the Christian Church, eager to secure Mr. Leaming as choir director, made him a much more attractive offer than the Methodist Church could afford. Mr. Leaming was now Musical Director of the Hammond Schools and, under his direction, the standard of this department had been greatly improved. While he served as director of the Christian Church choir, Miss Patterson became the choir leader at the Methodist Church and was followed in turn by J. O. Thompson.

In 1911 M. M. Towle, Jr., presented a \$3000.00 pipe organ to the church in memory of his father, M. M. Towle Sr., who though never a church member, had been very generous in gifts to the Methodists, thus enabling them to acquire a church home.

On Tuesday evening, April 4, 1911, the new organ was dedicated and Prof. Walter Keller of Chicago introduced the audience to its fine musical possibilities. The choir offered the following numbers which gave an idea of the ability of the singers at that time.

O Lord, Our Governor *H. Cadsby*
Fear Not O Israel *M. Spicker*

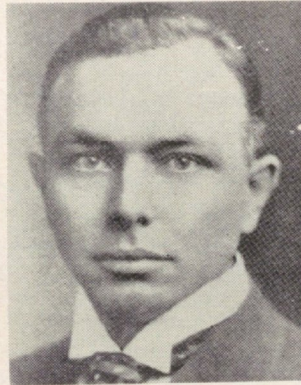
Members of the choir were:

SOPRANOS:

Alice Blosser
Ethel Hoffman
Anna Ibach
Lytta McMahon

Altos:

Mrs. Bertha Armstrong
Mrs. May Dunsing
Lena Krimbill
Susan Mitchell



Clark D. Leaming
Choir Director, Soloist
Director of Music in
Public Schools



CHOIR, 1915 — CLARK LEAMING, DIRECTOR

C. H. Lasater, Marie Robbins Scherer, Roy Wilson, Grace Mathews Clemens, Mrs. Elsa Freeman, John Davis Mrs. C. H. Lasater, Clark Leaming, Margaret Hickman, Farrel Staley, Norma Robbins Bricknell, Percy Thompson, Ruth Wagonblast, Mrs. Julius Dunsing, Paul Stewart, Hazel Younger Freeland, Walter Thompson, Alice Bump Beck, E. O. Hawkins.

Lissa Mitchell
Mrs. Lotta Monnett
Edna Switzer
Muriel Wilcox

TENORS:

Charles Kuss
C. H. Lasater
H. W. Marden
E. E. Olson
W. I. Schneider
W. S. Whitbeck

Norma Robbins

BASSES:

Charles E. Brown
G. R. Love
Perry J. Mann
Fred Miller
J. O. Thompson

MUSIC COMMITTEE
Dr. W. Mayes Martin
M. M. Towle, Jr.
W. C. Belman

Mr. Leaming returned to his own church and again took over the direction of the choir. Since he was a member of the Baton Club of Chicago, his choir was eligible to enter their annual concert contests. So the choir decided to make an attempt and won the first prize of \$50.00 one year, and the second prize of \$30.00 the next year.

The following announcement appeared in the Chicago Daily News:

"HAMMOND CHORISTERS WIN PRIZES IN CONTEST"

"Hammond, April 20, 1915.—Hammond Choristers won the sixth annual contest held by the Baton Club of Chicago, at the Grace M. E. Church with Prof. Clark Leaming holding the baton. Wooley Memorial M. E. Church was second. The verdict of the judges was unanimous. This is the first time the prize ever went out of Chicago."

The members of the Hammond Choir were:

Clark Leaming, director
Theodore Moor, organist

Singers: Adele Dunbar, Farrell Staley, Norma Robbins, Marie Robbins, Grace Matthews, Margaret Hickman, Hazel Younger, Helen Wagonblast, Reba Apple, Alice Bump, Mrs. Julius Dunsing, Mrs. J. E. Myers, Mrs. Louis Freeman, J. W. Davis, Roy Wilson, J. E. Myers, Walter Thompson, Percy Thompson, Leland Reed, and Paul Stewart.

Following is a program for the morning worship service given the Sunday before Christmas, Dec. 21, 1930. There have been many changes in the choir membership since that day. Some of these people have moved away from Hammond, but many of them are seen in the regular services each Sunday morning.

PRELUDE—Christmas Themes

DOXOLOGY—(*Congregation Standing*)

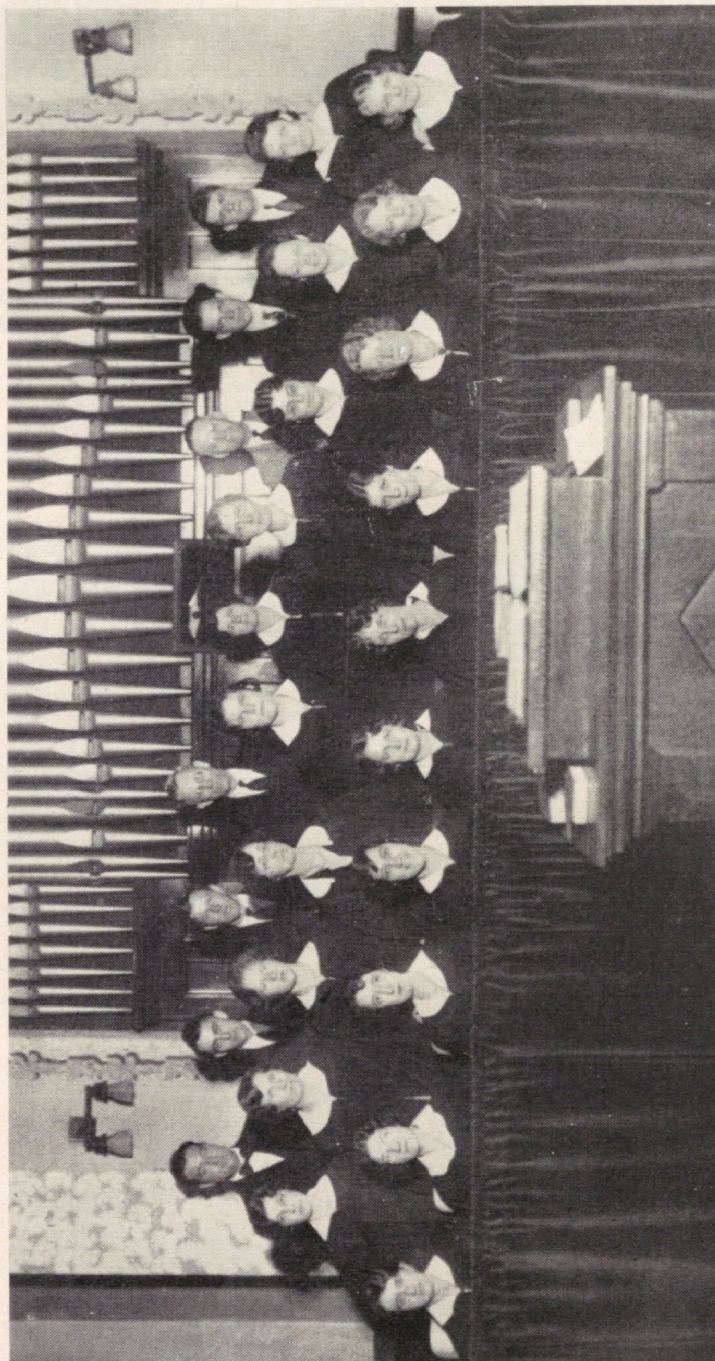
HYMN 111—"Hark the Herald Angels Sing"

OFFERTORY—

CHRISTMAS CANTATADudley Buck

1. Noel—Organ Prelude—Mrs. Howard Oltz
2. Prophecy—O Jerusalem, Look above Thee—Kathryn Hosteder
3. Advent—Awake! Put On Thy Strength, O Zion
4. Choir, Women's Chorus—Duet Metha Wilhelm, Marie Mullaney
- 4a. The Anunciation
Alto Solo—Metha Wilhelm, Tenor Solo—S. L. McCall
5. Across the Desert—The Caravan of the Magi
Soloists—J. C. Stokes, C. C. Bonnell, C. Wagher
6. The Plains of Bethlehem
Women's Chorus and Tenor Solo—S. L. McCall
7. Departure of the Shepherds
Chorus—Base Solo C. Wagher — Soprano Solo—Kathryn Hosteder
- 8b. Christians Awake—Chorus
8. The Virgin's Lullaby—Mrs. L. P. Feltzer
9. The Questioning of the Magi
Bass Solo (Herod)—C. C. Bonnell and Men's Chorus
10. The Adoration—Solo—J. Tide Cook
The Magi—P. B. Cory and J. C. Stokes
11. Adeste Fidelis—Chorus

BENEDICTION



CHOIR, 1930 - 1931

Front row: Katherine Hosteder, Mrs. G. Baltas, Mrs. M. Thoma, Gertrude Wilhelm, Arvilla Guse, Mrs. E. Wheatley, Blanche Kansfield, Mrs. J. W. Belshaw, Mrs. Dunsing, Ina Watson
 Second row: Ethel Wood, Mrs. G. Allard, Josephine Marco, Mrs. E. Holway, Ruth Kansfield, Mrs. H. Oltz, organist, Mrs. C. Wiedman, LaVerne Crary, Dorothy Nelson, Ruth Nelson.
 Back row: J. Tide Cook, Director, R. Nichols, a guest singer, S. L. McCall, W. Wagher, James Nelson, Russell Laity.

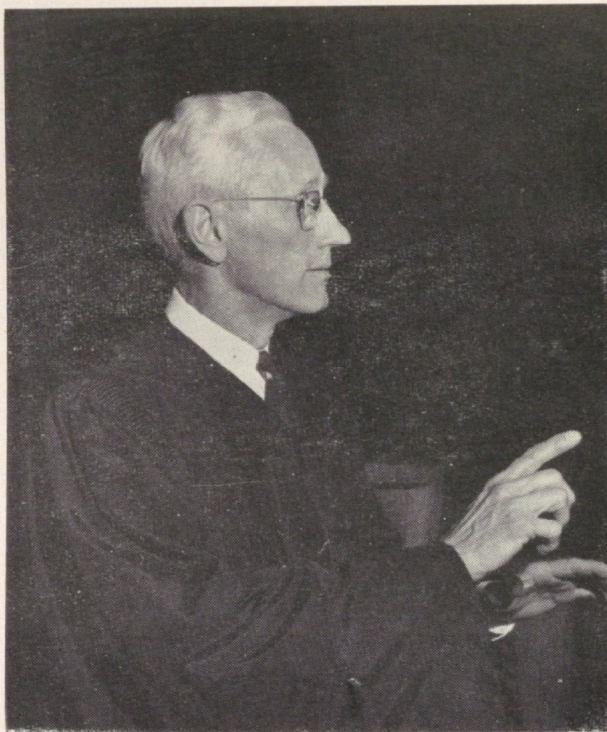


CHOIR — 1938

Seated: S. L. McCall, Dr. James Lawson, L. A. Milne

First row: Ruth Fischer, Arvilla Guse, Agnes Nell, Bonnie McLean, Marion Nichols, Helen Jordan, Mrs. H. Oltz, Organist, Miss M. R. Sparrow, Frances Rogers, Vergene Anderson, LaVerne Crary, Mrs. H. D. Blake

Second row: John Foudray, Harry Kross, Edward Stokes, Mrs. Fred Johnson, Mrs. G. W. Cravens, Mrs. Eva Wheatly, Mrs. Ethel Shields, Ruth Heath, Ewing Best, Leonard Heath.



S. L. McCall, Choir Leader



At dedication of new pulpit furniture, September 22, 1946

J. Tide Cook—Choir Director

Mrs. Howard Oltz—Organist

The same evening they aided in giving another program.

ORGAN PRELUDE—Holy Night.....*Dudley Buck*

Carols—

Silent Night

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

O Come All Ye Faithful

PRAYER—

OFFERTORY—March of the Magi*Dubois*

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT—The Shepherd Lad's Gift

Cast of Characters in order of their appearance:

First Shepherd.....*George Winkler*

Second Shepherd*William Boss*

Shepherd Lad*Bobby Weather*

First King*James Nelson*

Second King*Edward Sarber*

Third King *Paul Howerton*

King's Attendants—

Albert Williams, Ben Ford, Wilbur Bobs, Allen
Turbeville, Wayne Bowton

Mary*Lois Ford*

Joseph*Billy Robinson*

Organist*Mrs. J. W. Johnson*

Song Leader*S. L. McCall*

Invisible Choir.....*Junior and Intermediate Girls*

Program Committee—

A. W. Clark, Mary McCall, Mrs. J. T. Otto, Vera
Porter, Mrs. Martha Ventley, Mrs. C. W. Bus-
sell and S. L. McCall

Stage and Lighting.....*Lee Akers, G. A. Guse*

Director*Mrs. J. T. Otto*

Many of the members were students in Voice training and welcomed the opportunity to sing in the Methodist choir under competent leadership. They provided excellent musical programs that at the time were unexcelled by any of the choirs of the city.

Again we note many changes in this department of church work. Many familiar faces are gone. Some of our people had become active workers in the Hyde Park Church. Others felt they had served their time and that it was time for them to step down and give their places to younger people. Mrs. Louis Freeman, Mrs. L. P. Feltzer, and Mrs. J. W. Belshaw were loyal members of First Church choir in years past. Mrs. Eva Wheatly Smith served as soloist for a number of years. During the school year, First Church choir has always been greatly aided by many of the teachers in the school system.

ADULT CHOIR

SOPRANO:

Miss Mildred Kimbrough
Mrs. C. C. Wiedman
Mrs. J. W. Johnson
Mrs. Geo. Cravens
Miss Laura Baril
Miss Kathryn Hosteder
Miss Virginia Osborne
Mrs. Dorothy Williams
Mrs. Marilyn Gellerson
Miss Betty Fischer

TENOR:

John W. Powell
Lewis Unnewehr
John Quillman
Robert Pearson

ALTO:

Mrs. Perry Ricks
Mrs. Earl Todd
Mrs. Fred Hopper
Mrs. James Nelson
Miss Ruth Switzer
Miss Ruth Kansfield
Miss Ruth Ruble
Miss Marjorie Nokes
Miss Mary Jean Bohanan

BASS:

James Nelson
Ewing Best
J. Mikles
Fred Swisher



Marching Choirs — September 22, 1946



SENIOR CHOIR — 1946

First row: Mrs. J. W. Johnson, Mrs. G. W. Cravens, Mrs. C. Wiedman, John Quillman, Lewis Unnewehr
 Second row: Betty Fischer, Florence Hogan, Mrs. Chas. Gellerson, John Powell
 Third row: Katherine Hosteder, Virginia Osborne, Mrs. H. Oltz, organist, S. L. McCall, Director
 Fourth row: Mrs. J. Nelson, Mrs. E. Todd, Laura Baril, Ewing Best
 Fifth row: Mrs. P. A. Ricks, Mrs. H. D. Reed, J. A. Mikles
 Sixth row: Mary J. Bohanan, Mrs. F. N. Hopper, F. Swisher
 Seventh row: Ruth Kansfield, Ruth Swisher, James Nelson

Organist—Mrs. Howard Oltz
 Director—S. L. McCall
 Pianist—Miss Laura Baril

MUSIC COMMITTEE
 Dr. P. B. Smith
 Mrs. F. N. Hopper
 Mrs. Robt. Long
 Mrs. L. E. Witham

For some time a lively Junior choir of girls took part regularly in the morning service. Many of these young women have married, others have moved away and this Junior choir, which recently became the Intermediate Choir lost interest and no longer has a part in the Sunday morning worship service.

A new choir, made up of both boys and girls voices, has been organized and receives regular training by Miss Laura Baril. This group meets every Friday after school hours for rehearsal. The little folk seem quite shy and when singing alone their voices are so faint that it is almost impossible to hear them. However, the hope is, that they will gradually gain more confidence as they become more accustomed to singing and later have a definite place in the Sunday morning service. As it is, their bright happy faces shining above their starched collars and choir robes are indeed a pleasing sight.

JUNIOR CHOIR

Dale Anderson
 Alice Parker
 Bruce Zweig
 Eddie Neal
 Mary Elizabeth Goff
 Cereta Henderson
 Sandra Smith

Bobby Flournoy
 Billie Weil
 Clifford Weil
 Albert Petrie
 Jerry Evans
 Elwood Evans
 Phillip Gullledge

Laura Baril—Director

As we look back thru the years, we find the following names of people who helped carry on the work as organist or choir director:

ORGANIST

Helen Winslow Blackwood
 Mrs. Anna Miller
 T. W. Dunk
 C. W. Gill
 William Beall—1892-95
 Jessie Clark —1895-96
 Mrs. J. A. Boner—1896-97
 Margaret Shugg—1897-99
 Edith Roberts—1899-1902
 Theo. Moor—1902-1920
 Gladys Younger—1922-25
 Mrs. J. W. Johnson—1925-1930
 Mrs. Howard Oltz 1930-1947
 Mrs. David Affleck—1947

CHOIR DIRECTOR

W. H. Goodman
 T. W. Dunk
 C. W. Gill
 Clark Leaming—1899-1910
 Theo. Moor—1910-1911
 Miss Patterson—1911-1912
 Clark Leaming—1912-1917
 R. B. Moon—1917-1919
 O. L. Downs—1919-1920
 Mrs. Elsa Freeman—1921-25
 Geo. Calder—1925-1926
 S. L. McCall—1926-1929
 Phillip Cory—1929-1930
 J. Tide Cook—1930-1931
 S. L. McCall—1931-

The Easter and Christmas seasons have always been the occasion for ambitious choir efforts. Weeks of practice have preceded the programs offered and the rapt attention of the congregation, proves that the efforts of the singers have not been in vain.

In recent years, the choir offers only a few numbers in celebration of these seasons instead of the ambitious cantata of an earlier day.

The processional of robed choirs, led by the children's choir wending its way down the center aisle of First Church, forms an impressive part of the morning service as the congregation joins in the singing of the opening hymn.



Intermediate Choir — 1946



Junior Choir — 1946



Theodore Moor—Organist, choir singer — 1902 - 1920



Mrs. Howard Oltz, organist 1929-1946



Mrs. David Affleck, Organist 1947



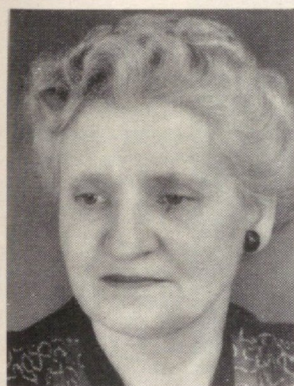
Mrs. G. W. Cravens
President W.S.C.S. 1941-42



Mrs. Lloyd Keeling
President W.S.C.S. 1943-44



The W.S.C.S. — 1946



Mrs. J. C. Stokes
President W.S.C.S. 1945-46



Mrs. F. N. Hopper
President W.S.C.S., 1947



1946 EXECUTIVE BOARD OF W.S.C.S.

First row: Mrs. L. Keeling, Mrs. W. Nichols, Mrs. T. E. STRAUSSER, Mrs. J. C. Stokes, Mrs. H. S. Brown, Mrs. J. L. Bohanan
 Second row: Mrs. H. Robinson, Mrs. L. L. Caldwell, Mrs. W. V. Ische, Mrs. T. W. McCall, Mrs. J. T. Malone, Mrs. J. M. Wallace, Mrs. R. M. Pierce
 Third row: Mrs. A. L. Walker, Mrs. L. Fruehling, Mrs. S. L. McCall, Mrs. J. A. Mikles, Mrs. R. Beucus, Mrs. G. W. Cravens, Mrs. P. B. Smith, Mrs. F. N. Hopper, Mrs. J. W. Johnson.



W.S.C.S. PRESIDENT AND CHAIRMEN — 1946

First row: Mrs. L. Fruehling, Mrs. J. C. Stokes, Pres. Mrs. L. L. Caldwell
 Second row: Mrs. W. V. Ischie, Mrs. J. D. Lawyer, Mrs. J. M. Wallace

Woman's Society of Christian Service

Mrs. G. W. Cravens

Under the constitution and law of the Methodist Church all of the interests and activities of the women are included in the work of the Woman's Society of Christian Service. The society is an integral part of the whole life and activity of the church with three primary objectives: The promotion of the missionary program, assistance to the home church, and a share in the education of the church constituency in the interest of an intelligent understanding and support of the total program of Methodism.

In principle every woman, who becomes a member of a Methodist Church, becomes a member of its Woman's Society of Christian Service. This membership is made active through her participation in the program and her support of the work. The organization is not an end in itself, but a channel of action whereby each may serve the church and help build the Kingdom.

First Church was fortunate in that for a decade or more preceding Unification it had been represented at the District, Conference and Branch meetings of the missionary societies by goodly delegations and had representation in the Conference and District Cabinets of these societies in the persons of Mrs. J. E. Myer, Mrs. F. L. Reinmann, Mrs. T. W. McCall, Mrs. J. T. Otto, Mrs. S. L. McCall, Mrs. Walter E. Nichols, and Mrs. G. W. Cravens. The dream of unification was an organization that should both conserve all values precious in the former societies and attain new victories.

In the spring of 1940 at a called meeting of the women of the church, the presidents of the three women's societies were elected by ballot as delegates to the district provisional meeting to be held in Valparaiso: Mrs. G. W. Cravens of the Ladies Aid, Mrs. J. T. Otto of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society and Mrs. T. W. McCall of the Woman's Home Missionary Society. At the district meeting Mrs. Cravens was elected a delegate to represent the Ladies' Aids at the Conference Provisional meeting held in Trinity Church, Lafayette when nominations were made to the Division and Jurisdictional Boards.

The Division officer, Mrs. James Oldshue of Chicago was a resource leader at the Conference Provisional session and presented the plan for the seven resource leaders in the department of Christian Social Relations and Local church activities, so that Mrs. Cravens was able to effect the organization of this department in the local society as soon as officers were elected.

Under the leadership of Mrs. Cravens, forty-five women of First Church met during the summer months of 1940 to study in "The Guide" the plans for the society and the duties of officers. From this group the pastor, Dr. James Lawson, chose a nominating committee, the membership of which represented each of the previous societies: Mrs. Arlet Walker, Chairman; Mrs. Arthur A. Anderson, Mrs. Walter Barnes, Mrs. Orville Meyer, Mrs. John C. Stokes, Mrs. J. Will Belshaw, and Mrs. Wm. Spellman. Upon the resignation of Mrs. Spellman, Mrs. John Cody was appointed in her place.

The organizational meeting and charter service was held in the church sanctuary September 11, 1940 with one hundred sixty-five women in attendance. The constitution was read and one hundred thirty-two signed the charter. It was significant that Miss Rebecca Daily and Mrs. Mary D. Snyder of the W.F.M.S. who were seventieth anniversary and Life Members respectively, were the first to affix their signatures to the charter of the new society. The charter officers elected were: Mrs. George W. Cravens president, Mrs. Thomas W. McCall vice-president, Mrs. Oscar Nelson recording secretary, Mrs. Clarence Miller corresponding secretary, and Mrs. Samuel L. McCall treasurer; with the following secretaries of lines of work: Mrs. Charles Franklin, missionary education; Mrs. John C. Stokes, Christian social relations and local church activities; Mrs. Orville Meyer, students; Mrs. Robert Long, Young women and girls; Mrs. Joseph T. Otto, children; Mrs. Walter E. Nichols, literature and Mrs. Arthur F. Lindemann, supplies.

At the first officers meeting on September 18, the By-Laws were read. These were later adopted at the Installation service which was held on Friday evening, September 27 so that business and professional women could attend the second enrollment ceremony when eighty-seven signed the charter. The charter was held open until the first regular meeting on October 10th. The certificate presented by the president to the Conference Organizational meeting in West Lafayette Church on October 15, recorded two hundred thirty-two charter members. At this meeting, Mrs. T. W. McCall was elected vice-president of the Conference Society.

The local society had the honor and privilege of entertaining the South Bend District for its first annual meeting in September, 1941. The officers elected in 1940 held office until January 1942, since the Woman's Division decided upon the calendar year for the organization. At this time the society numbered three hundred seven members with sixty-nine subscribers to the "Methodist Woman" and twenty-eight to the "World Outlook". The year closed with a balance of ninety dollars and sixty-nine cents (\$90.69) in the treasury; the budget for 1942 was set at twenty-one hundred dollars (\$2100) of which nine hundred fifty dollars (\$950) was the missionary pledge to the district.

New officers installed in January, 1942, were: Mrs. H. F. Kieckhefer, vice-president; Mrs. Lewis Witham, recording secretary; Mrs. Robert Long, corresponding secretary; Mrs. T. W. McCall, missionary education; Mrs. Fred Walker, girls work; Mrs. Louise Fruehling, Children's Work; and Mrs. Lloyd Keeling, literature. Charter officers continued in the other offices.



MARY REED CIRCLE W.S.C.S. AT THE HOME OF MRS. J. T. MALONE

Seated: Mrs. O. Porter, Miss I. Ihrig, Miss L. Slocum, Mrs. W. Milne, Mrs. A. Bush, Mrs. F. Arnt, Mrs. F. Swisher, Jr.
 Back row: Mrs. H. Geiger, Mrs. J. Williams, Mrs. D. Decker, Mrs. M. Wheeler, Mrs. H. Crary, Miss M. Kimbrough,
 Mrs. J. T. Malone, Mrs. A. R. Baker, Mrs. J. Nelson, Mrs. J. Terpstra.



Isabella Thoburn Circle W.S.C.S. — 1946

Changes in officers for 1943 were: Mrs. Keeling, president; Mrs. Cravens, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Fred N. Hopper, children's work; Mrs. Long, literature, and Mrs. Walter E. Nichols, supply work. New officers for 1944 were: Mrs. Hopper, recording secretary; Miss Mildred Kimbrough, student work; Mrs. George Evans, children's work; and Mrs. H. E. Holloway, literature.

An almost complete new set of officers was elected to serve in 1945; Mrs. J. C. Stokes, president; Mrs. Harry S. Brown, vice-president; Mrs. J. L. Bohanan, recording secretary; Mrs. T. E. Strauser, corresponding secretary; Mrs. W. E. Nichols, treasurer; Mrs. John W. Johnson, Spiritual Life Secretary; Mrs. Keeling, Christian Social Relations secretary; Mrs. J. A. Mikles, student work; Mrs. Hopper, youth work; Mrs. Roy Beucus, supply work; Mrs. John Malone, literature and publications and Mrs. Walter Heiney, status of women secretary. These officers were re-elected for 1946 with Mrs. A. L. Walker taking Mrs. McCall's place as secretary of missionary education and service and Mrs. P. B. Smith becoming secretary of status of women.

During the first two years of the quadrennium, Mrs. J. T. Otto served as district secretary of literature. Later Mrs. T. W. McCall served four years as district secretary of Missionary education and service and Mrs. Cravens as Vice-president of the district. Mrs. S. L. McCall was elected in 1943 to the office of Conference treasurer. At the First Assembly of Methodist Women held in April 1942 at Columbus, Ohio, First Church was represented by Mrs. Cravens, Mrs. Keeling, Mrs. S. L. McCall and Mrs. Stokes. Those attending the Second Assembly in 1946 were Mrs. Hopper, Mrs. S. L. McCall, and Mrs. Cravens. The latter two were official delegates of the Conference and district. At least eighteen members have attended every district meeting and from four to twelve members every annual meeting of the Conference Society.

Our women have shown that they can carry on their own program successfully and at the same time do their part in every other effort of the church. In the crusade for Christ, the Woman's Society pledged fifteen hundred dollars (\$1500.) of the church's six thousand dollars (\$6000.) pledge to the Crusade fund and effectively assisted in the city-wide survey for the Crusade of Evangelism and in the visitation campaign. The aim of all service activities is to undergird the pastor's program for the local church and make it more effective in its civic outreach, co-operating with all the community forces of righteousness.

The importance of every personality is one of the main emphasis of Christianity and so there is a place for every woman in the society; for all those whose abilities increase the fun, recreation, and material well-being of the group; for the lonely and heartsick who need the fellowship of Christian friends; for those whose talents make them leaders in the educational program which provides stimulus to fulfill completely the pledge of membership; "To give prayer, service and annual contribution of money to the total budget."

New officers elected to serve for 1947 are: Mrs. F. N. Hopper, president; Mrs. L. F. Witham, vice-president; Mrs. L. Z. Keeling, promotion secretary; Mrs. Roy Beucus, Christian social relations, secretary; Mrs. W. H. Wendell, student work; Mrs. Don M. Strathearn, youth work; Mrs. Elmer Reusch, children's work; Mrs. J. T. Otto, supply work.



J. T. Otto and Dr. P. B. Smith join the W.S.C.S. Nov. 1946 .



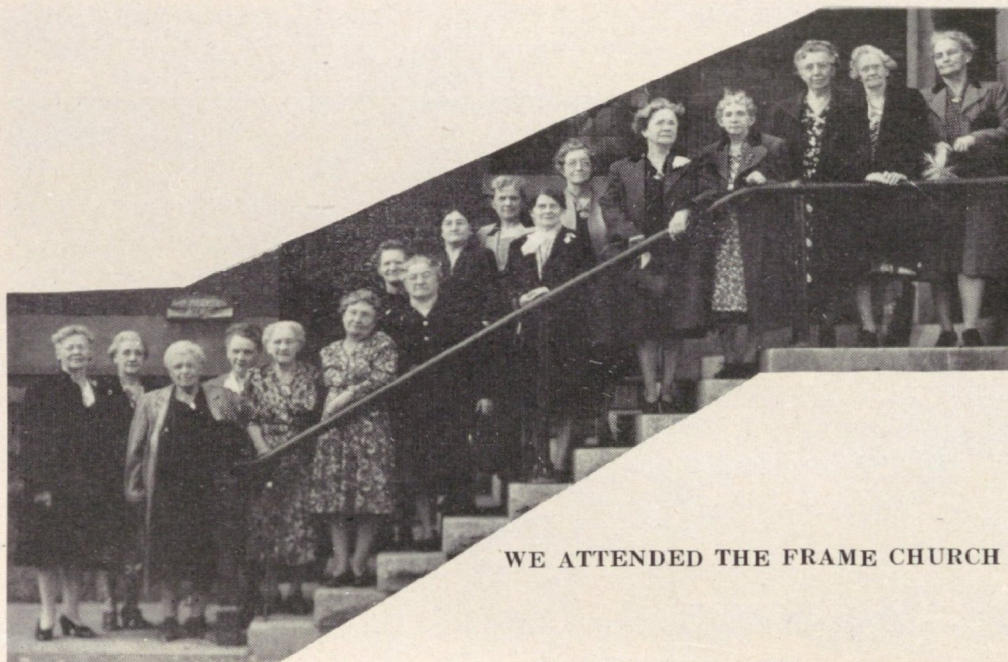
The Dining Room W.S.C.S. Homecoming Day, September 18, 1946



Chaped Circle W.S.C.S., September 18, 1946



A busy day for Chapel Circle, September 18, 1946



WE ATTENDED THE FRAME CHURCH

Mrs. M. Carrol, Mrs. Ludwig, Mrs. Breillatt, Mrs. Monnett, Mrs. Hunt, Mrs. Pierce, Mrs. Nelson, Mrs. Fruehling, Mrs. Malon, Mrs. Myers, Mrs. Fryar, Mrs. Holway, Mrs. Perry, Mrs. Bardens, Mrs. Brown, Miss Fowler, Mrs. Ruff.



THE DINING ROOM. W.S.C.S. HOME COMING DAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 1946

Auld Llang Syne — September 18, 1946

Seated: Mrs. W. Hageman, Mrs. H. Fryar, Miss N. Fowler, Mrs. D. Perry, Mrs. F. Lindh, Mrs. S. Siegrist, Mrs. A. S. Hunt, Mrs. R. M. Pierce, Mrs. O. Nelson, Mrs. W. Bardens, Mrs. P. Breillatt, Mrs. H. Voight, Mrs. H. A. McConnell
 Standing: Mrs. W. Slagle, Mrs. H. Wheeler, Mrs. M. Monnett, Mrs. F. Malon, Mrs. J. Symoniak, Mrs. M. Ludwig, Mrs. M. Bruce, Mrs. E. Holway, Mrs. H. Oltz, Mrs. J. T. Hutton, Mrs. J. J. Ruff, Mrs. H. S. Brown

The M. M. M. Society

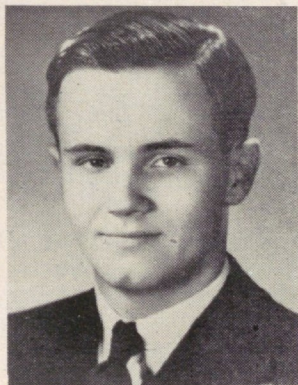
Mrs. F. N. Hopper

In October, 1944, the M.M.M. Society, an interest group, was organized for teen age girls by Mrs. F. N. Hopper, Secretary of Youth Work in the Women's Society of Christian Service. Eleven girls became charter members. In January, 1945, three new members were added, and at the end of the first year eighteen girls names appeared in the year book.

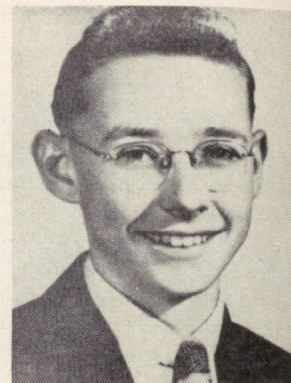
This group of future W.S.C.S. workers enjoyed fellowship and study from the plans made by the Board of Education of our church. "Lights Around the World" was the subject of discussion of 1944, and "Crusaders for Tomorrow's World" including "This Is Africa" by Mack, and "Christianity Where You Live", by Underwood is being used at present.

A Halloween party, Christmas gift exchange, Valentine Tea, March pot luck supper for M.Y.F., Mother's Day Breakfast and a visit to the Nursery School of Campbell Friendship House in Gary were some of the social events enjoyed by these girls. Gifts to Campbell House amounting to \$7.40 have been donated to date.

M.M.M. group meetings have been held on the third Sunday afternoon of each month from 5:00 to 7:00. Plans are being made for all girls over 16 years of age to meet during the week, when some time may be given to handwork for our supply work. Mrs. Don Strathearn will act as sponsor for these girls.



Rev. Wm. V. Ischie, Jr.
Pastor of Cedar Lake
Methodist Church. Local
Preacher First Church



Rev. Craig Affleck
Local Preacher First
Church



M. Y. F. CABINET, 1946 - 1947
Carolyn Hopper, Betty Kovach, John Davis
Glen Strausser, June Williams, Lee Christensen
Mary J. Bohanan, Donna J. Heiney, Jean Williams
James Nelson, Mrs. James Nelson.

Methodist Youth Fellowship

Mrs. James Nelson

The Epworth League is no more! With the unification of all Methodist churches the youth program underwent a radical change. The name of the new organization, chosen by Methodist young people over the entire country, became the Methodist Youth Fellowship—MYF for short. So in 1941 Steve O'Donnell became the president of the First Methodist Youth Fellowship of First Church Hammond. The MYF includes in its membership not only the youth active in the Sunday night program, as did the Epworth League, but all young people who are members of the church, who attend the Sunday morning worship service, who belong to Sunday School classes, or participate in any of the numerous youth interest groups.

Activities are pretty much the same as always; we study missions, social problems, personal problems, our church, etc. We have parties, call on shut-ins, and cooperate in the total church program. The MYF of our church has constantly been active in all the work of the sub-district. We attend the monthly rallies; enter booths and contribute generously to the booth-festivals; lead our sub-district in the amount given to the Youth Fund, which supports the work of both Home and Foreign missions. The registrar of the Battle Ground youth camps always finds on his list a goodly number of MYF from our church.

After Steve had been called to service in the Army, Lucille Williams was elected and served for two years. Craig Affleck was then elected, and was president for two years also. During this time he began training to enter the ministry. Today Steve Bronson is the president, and from the program recently outlined by his cabinet we can predict that the young people of this church will continue the good work that has been characteristic through the years.

President—Steve Bronson

Vice-President—Lee Christensen

Chairman Worship and Evangelism—Marilyn Booth

Assistant Chairman—Betty Kovach

Chairman Missions and World Friendship—Charlotte Hutchinson

Assistant Chairman—Beulah Pippenger

Chairman Community Service—Donna Marie Heiney

Assistant Chairman—Virginia Pippenger

Chairman Recreation and Leisure Time—Jerry Rush

Co-Chairman—Pat McMurry

Secretary—Carolyn Hopper

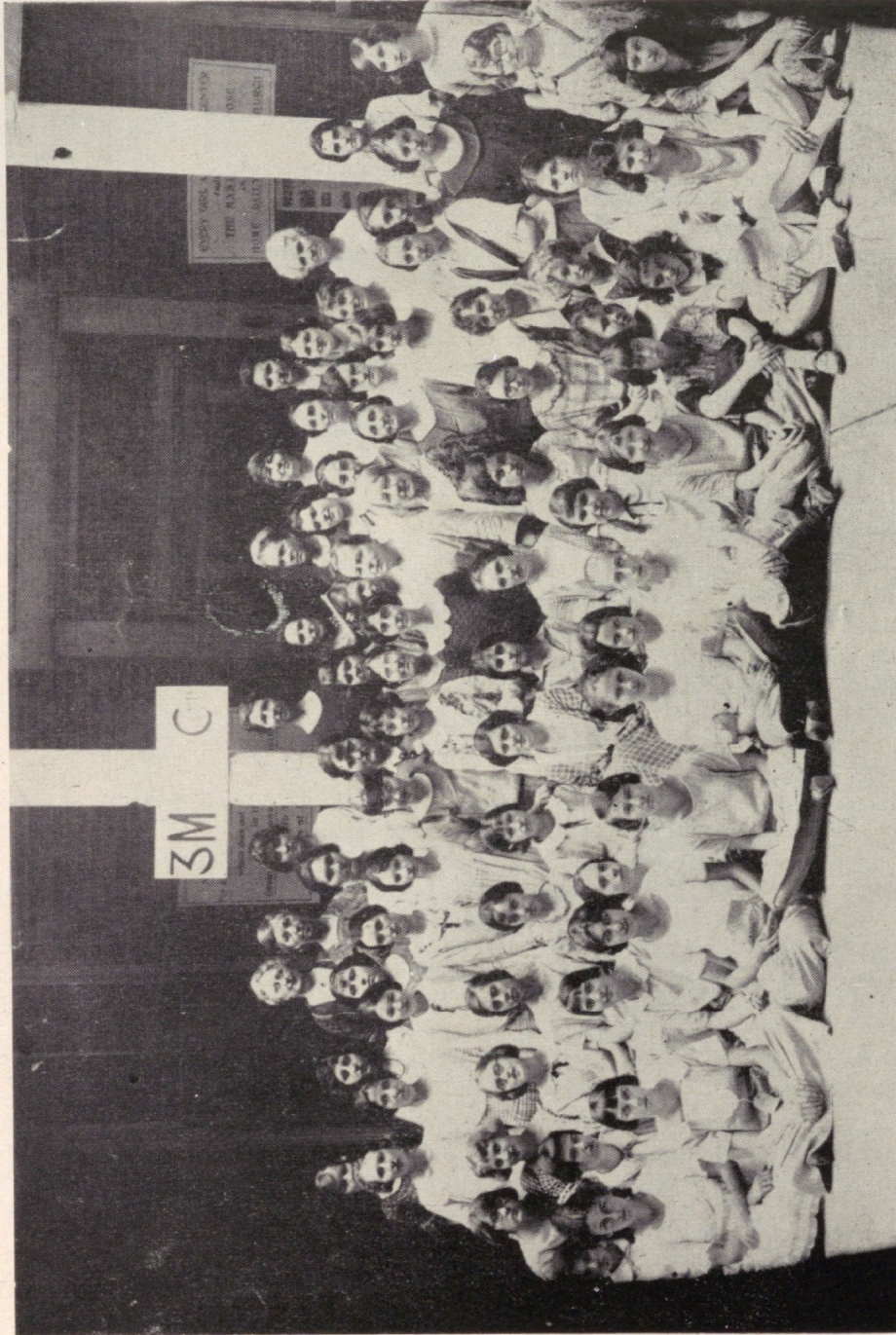
Treasurer—John Davis

The sincerity of this department of church work is demonstrated in the choice of life work of some of the young people who gave so much of their time and effort to perfect the new organization.

Four of these young people chose the ministry as their profession. One has had to put aside his training for a time because of health. Another had entered the service of this country. The two remaining are earnestly pursuing their studies.

William V. Ischie, Jr., although still a student has served the Lincoln Avenue Church at Chesterton and is now the pastor at Cedar Lake. Rev. Ischie, known to all as Bill, is aiding his Cedar Lake congregation in acquiring a church home. There has never been a real church building at Cedar Lake, and in undertaking this project at this time, there have been so many difficulties to overcome, due to wartime restrictions and priorities.

Craig Affleck graduated from High School in June, 1946, and has just entered Asbury College to begin his studies.



FIRST 3M CAMP, BATTLE GROUND — 1923
 2nd Row, 2nd from right: Helen Keller VonVorhees
 3rd Row, 3rd from right: Adele Dunbar Sturdevant
 3rd Row, 3rd from right: Doris Houser Crary
 4th Row, 2nd from right: Dorothy Jacobs Braund
 4th Row, 1st from right, Florence Hix Cook



Miss Flora Cho at Battle Ground 1926 School of Missions



Dr. Hawthorne Darby with two girls at Battle Ground. Dr. Darby, Methodist Missionary in the Philippines, was beheaded by the Japanese.



The water's fine. In the pool at Battle Ground — 1927



Have a drink? Kentland old town pump. First group of girls to go to 3M Camp at Battle Ground, 1934

Battle Ground

Mrs. J. T. Otto

The history of First Methodist Church, Hammond, would not be complete without a few words about the Methodist Camp at Battle Ground. Established over twenty-five years ago, it has ever been a place of education and inspiration for all, both young and old, who have ever attended its summer programs.

Battle Ground, with its historic setting, its National Park with the great white granite monument towering above the tree tops and the Methodist Assembly Grounds adjoining, with rows of cottages nestled among the stately trees; its Hotel Marshall with deep porch and comfortable chairs, spacious lobby, dining room and kitchen, large auditorium; its tennis courts and swimming pool, and the many foot paths inviting hikes to places of interest. Young people find no week's stay at Battle Ground quite complete without a "trek" down Tecumseh Trail to Prophet's Rock, so named in memory of an Indian leader who sat on this rock and sang while the battle of Tippecanoe was in progress.

Under the supervision of the Board of Education of the Northwest Indiana Conference, the Summer Program begins with the Junior Camp, (boys and girls 9-11 years of age) which provides a complete camping experience in an environment that is Christian, with counselors and teachers of craft, worship, swimming and games. The campers and leaders, together, share in experiences that are challenging and inspirational and bring fun and fellowship that will always be remembered.

The Intermediate Camp for boys and girls, 12-15 years, helps them, in their religious development, to know the program of the church and their place in that program.

The High School Institute is for boys and girls of High school age and many of our boys and girls from Hammond First Church have found God's purpose for their lives during those days at camp. The call to the Christian Ministry has been made clear to some boy and some form of Christian Service to some girl. All have come back to the Home Church to make the Christian religion a working force in their daily lives.

Many adults have "renewed their strength" from spending one week in Camp, away from the cares of every day life, in fellowship and communion with God and Christian friends and counselors.

The week of "The School of Christian Living" for women and girls, stands out in the memories of many of our First Church people; not only the fine instruction and guidance in woman's work to carry back to make our Woman's Society of Christian Service one of the strong organizations in our Conference, but friendships have been formed and inspiration given to "carry on".

In years past, First Church has sent as many as Twenty-five girls at one time to 3M Camp, whose slogan, 3M—Making the Most of Myself, became a vital part of their lives. During 3M week many returned missionaries are in Camp to give of their rich experiences in Home and Foreign lands.

One year Helen Kim, the little Korean girl who was destined later to become president of Ewa College in Korea, was here. Another year, Polly Wang from China, who was in Nurse's training here in the United States, spent one week at 3M Camp in close fellowship with our girls and women before going back to China to take up her work among her own people. There were many others.

When 3M Camp week was over and the girls were homeward bound, after the Bible Study, fun and fellowship, the theme of their conversation was, "It has been a great week."

Battle Ground, a week of inspiration, to come back to our Home Church to

"Serve the present age, My calling to fulfill

O may it all my power engage, To do my Master's will"



At Battle Ground

Four Score and Ten

We are so proud of two of our "young women" who have given years of service to their church.

Mr. and Mrs. A. S. Hunt and daughter Ione, Mrs. M. P. Ludwig, came to Hammond at the turn of the century, about 1900. Mrs. Hunt became active in the Ladies Aid Society of First Church where she made a host of friends.

Even though she is nearing her ninety-second birthday she is a regular attendant at the W.S.C.S. meetings and although no longer able to take an active part in the work, she enjoys the social activities and programs.

Miss Rebecca Daily just recently celebrated her ninetieth birthday. Because of her kindness and humor Miss Daily has won many friends and is generally known as the "sweetheart" of First Church.

Rebecca Daily entered Home Mission Work in 1880, teaching for two years in a mission school at Ogden, Utah. In 1890 she entered the Woman's Foreign Missionary Service and taught for five years in the Calcutta Girls' School, Calcutta, India. During most of the time she added the duties of acting-principal to her regular work on account of the illness and consequent retirement of the regularly appointed head of the school.

On her return to America, the Board of the W.F.M.S. sent her through a number of states making missionary talks. For thirty-three years she traveled through the Indiana Conference, giving Thank Offering addresses and at District Group Meetings—explaining and illustrating methods of presenting the W.F.M.S. text book to local chapters.

Miss Daily has been a Sunday School worker. She taught the Daily Bible Class (First Church Greensburg, Indiana) for twenty-six years during which time the class grew from a charter membership of thirteen to an average attendance of eighty-three. Under her leadership, the class became an active service center in the church.

Since coming to Hammond in 1933, she made her home with her sister, and transferred her membership to the First Methodist Church, Hammond.



Mrs. A. S. Hunt



Miss Rebecca Daily

In Recognition

A. A. WINSLOW

The First Methodist Church is very proud of her members and especially so of the two men who came to the little packing house town about the same time in the early 1880s.

Mr. A. A. Winslow and Mrs. Winslow, came to Hammond about 1880, as a teacher in the frame school building which stood near Hohman Road, between Michigan Road and Indiana Street. This was a two room building, the other teacher being Miss Alice Webster. After leaving the school room, Mr. Winslow worked for the Hammond Tribune, a weekly newspaper. Later he became the owner of this newspaper and also the editor. It was due to his efforts that the Tribune became a daily paper and it was the foundation of the present Hammond Times.

After being in newspaper work for fifteen years, Mr. Winslow entered the consular service of the United States and, under President McKinley, was appointed Consul General of Belgium at Liege, where he served four and one half years.

When Theodore Roosevelt became president, Mr. Winslow was transferred to Valparaiso, Chili, where he remained eight years. In 1914, just prior to the beginning of the World War I, he returned to the United States and remained some time at Washington, D. C., where he assisted in various state departments.

In April 1915, he was sent to Auckland, New Zealand, as consuls general and remained there until 1921. From there he was transferred to Cape Town, South Africa where he remained just one year because of climatic conditions. After a short stay in the United States he was sent to Windsor, Canada to reorganize the American Consulate.

Mr. Winslow's health had begun to fail, but in spite of this, he remained at Windsor fourteen months and then went to St. Johns, Newfoundland, where he remained four months. Due to his ill health, and also having reached the age limit, this marked his last service in the consular branch of the government and in 1924 the Winslows returned to Crown Point to make their home and where Mr. Winslow's life came to an end August 23, 1929.

The Winslows were very active in church work, and had a great part in the formative years of First church. Through the years that these people had made Hammond their home, Mr. Winslow had served fifteen years as Sunday School Superintendent. Mrs. Winslow was known for her musical ability, was an active member of the choir, a teacher in the Sunday School, served for some time as president of the Ladies Aid Society and organized the Junior Epworth League. Many of the excellent Sunday School programs were due to the tireless efforts of this lady who gave so willingly of her time to train the boys and girls.

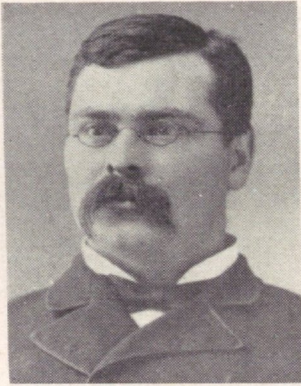
Mrs. Winslow,* now an invalid, makes her home in Crown Point, where the writer has often visited her in search of material.

Among Mrs. Winslow's prized possessions is a letter written by the Secretary of State, Charles E. Hughes, at the time of Mr. Winslow's retirement, in which he says:

"During your term of office you have set an example of fidelity, industry and devotion to duty which the younger officers in the service may well emulate. You have loyally guarded the important interests confided to your care; and you have performed your varied difficult duties with distinguished success. I beg to extend to you every good wish for your welfare and happiness."

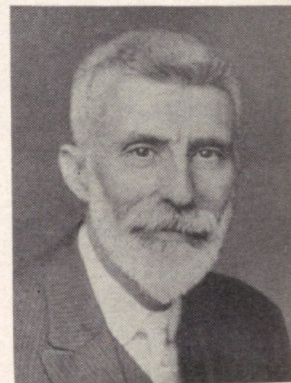
(Signed) CHARLES E. HUGHES,
United States Secretary of State

*Mrs. Winslow passed away at her home in Crown Point in April, 1947.



A. A. Winslow
Early teacher. Editor and
owner of the Hammond
Tribune. U. S. Consul.
Charter member of First
Methodist Church.

They Served Well



W. C. Belman
Educator, civic and church
leader.

W. C. Belman

In 1884 W. C. Belman came to Hammond to succeed A. A. Winslow and open the new school, the square block building which stood at the corner of Hohman and Fayette Streets. At this time, the first High School course was organized and Mr. Belman was assisted in this work by Miss Cynthia Wood (Mrs. Henry Sohl).

Mr. Belman saw a wonderful growth in the educational life of Hammond while he served as Superintendent of Schools. He resigned from this work in 1901 to become cashier of the newly reorganized First National Bank of Hammond and was an active official of this institution, later the First Trust and Savings Bank, for 27 years, retiring three years before the bank's failure.

Mr. Belman was ever an ardent worker for what he considered the best interest of the church. For over fifty years he served as a member of the Official Board and also acted as the Sunday School Superintendent several years and taught what was known as the Adult Bible Class. When the present church was built he was chairman of the building committee.

In 1915, he was a delegate to the general conference which met at Saratoga Springs, New York. When the Northwest Indiana Conference met in Hammond in 1912, he entertained five of the ministers including Bishop McDowell. At various times he entertained Bishops Blake, Oldham and Vincent and his home was a rallying place for many of the young men of the church.

Mr. Belman was a member of the State Board of the Y. M. C. A., a member of the Red Cross and the treasurer of the Hammond chapter until the close of his life. From the beginning of the Boy Scout organization, he was an active worker, was one of the committee who selected the site of Camp Betz. When Mr. W. J. Paxton contributed \$10,000. for a Girl Scout camp, he was one of the committee that chose the site for Camp Paxton near Winnamac. He was a generous contributor of his money as well as the best of his ability.

Those who were students in the schools during the years of Mr. Belman's service, always found a kindly friend and a sympathetic ear when they sought his advice, even years after their school days.

One of our business men recently in speaking of the days he spent at Old Central when Mr. Belman wielded so much power over Hammond Youth, remarked: "That man was uncanny. We couldn't get away with anything. If we played 'Hookey' from school, he knew just where to look for us; at the old livery stable on State St. And it was not long after our failure to return to classes, until we saw him cutting across vacant lots, heading directly towards us." "Positively uncanny".

Truly, few men in Hammond's history touched so many fields of human endeavor and so the community and First Church lost a friend when, on October 15, 1939 this civic leader and educator died at the age of 79.



A FEW OF OUR VETERANS — DEC. 1946

First row: B. F. Mills, J. A. Moery, A. A. Waite, E. G. Bunde, D. Willette, Durbin Brown
Second row: J. W. Blume, Dr. J. W. Powley, J. A. Lucas, W. A. Young, G. F. Whitmire, J. W. Margrave, A. L. Walker
Third row: H. Dockery, F. W. Malon, H. E. Holloway, H. Bentley

All Honor to Those Who Served

CIVIL WAR

Rev G. R. Streeter—George Streeter enlisted in the Northern New York Heavy Artillery at Albany, New York, when about 15 years old — Deceased.

SPANISH AMERICAN WAR

Stephen Ripley—Company A 161st Indiana Volunteers. This company was made up at Hammond — Deceased.

WORLD WAR I

These veterans' names are found on the membership roll of First Church:

Abbey, George
Adams, Eber
Baltas, Gregory
Bentley, Herman
Blume, John
Crary, C. H.
Dockery, Harry
East, Robert
Evans, Forrest
Finck, Frank, Sr. (Deceased)
Griffith, R. H.
Heiney, Walter
Holloway, H. E.
Hook, Chas.
Hoskins, Wallis
Johnson, E. W.
Lockhart, A. V.
Keeling, Lloyd
Kieckhefer, H. F.

Kinsey, Raymond
Knutson, Roland
Lawyer, Joseph D.
Malon, Fred
McCoy, Lynn
Mills, F. B.
Miller, A. A.
Mitchell, Ross
Peaker, Harry
O'Donnell, Wm.
Oltz, Howard
Peterson, O. B.
Sloan, Geo. A.
Suttinger, Chas.
Wallace, J. M.
Walker, Arlet
Wendell, Wm.
Wilson, R. M.

WORLD WAR II

A
Adams, Douglas
Adams, Jack
Adams, John W.
Axe, Robert L.

B
Bainbridge, Dean T.
Baltas, William G.
Barker, Millard
Balog, Chester
Banta, William M.
Barnes, Donald E.
Batsel, Edward
Baugh, Kenneth
Belshaw, Marshall E.
Belshaw, James W.
Beck, Quintin F.
Bentley, Herman R.
Bentley, Robert H.
Berger, Glenn
Beucus, Robert
Bevan, Thomas H.
Bishop, Martha Stokes (Red Cross)
Bohanan, J. L.
Bowen, Richard D.
Brady, Joseph
Briner, Bryon O.
Brogan, J.
Bronson, Stephen S.
Brown, Durbin G.
Brown, Harvey

Buck, Warren
Burrows, Marion
Bunde, Eugene
Byrne, Daniel R.

C
Christianson, Geo. W.
Clark, Paul
Clark, Don F.
Clark, Quentin W.
Close, Martin
Cole, William
Conrady, Thomas E.
Conrady, Vergine Brown
Cook, Richard E.
Crary, Jerry

D
Davis, George Wilbur
Dell, Jack A.

E
Elstun, W. B.

F
Fallowes, Robert W.
Feltzer, John A.
Finck, Frank
Finck, Richard
Fischer, Mary E.
Flynn, George T.
Fritz, Paul
Fritz, James
Frohnapple, C. H.

G

Gaedtke, Theodore J.
Getzinger, Everett Jr.
Gilchrist, Keith
Griffith, David R.
Gonder, Glenn
Guy, William E.

H

Hardesty, Deloss C.
Haskins, Eugene L.
Hackney, Roy G.
Hallett, Chas. H.
Hester, Robert
Heimark, Oliver C.
Highland, Thomas
Hockstetler, Dorothy J.
Hogue, Jesse D.
Holloway, William H.
Hoskins, Jack W.
Hovey, Chas. R.
Howerton, Robert J.
Hughes, James
Hunn, Virginia Lindeman (Nurse)

I

Ingram, John H.
Ingraham, Joseph
Isenagle, Farrel J.

J

Jacques, Bernice
Jacques, Bruce
Jenkins, Wilbur

K

Kennedy, Harold
Kessler, Joseph J.
Kickenapp, Floyd R.
Kickenapp, William
Kirkland, Vernon
Klein, Walter
Knott, Arlene (Nurse)
Knutson, Roland
Kyle, Frank

L

LaBarre, Robert M.
Latzko, Robert E.
LaBau, Claude S.
Leas, Robert
Levins, Raymond
Levins, Roland
Lewis, Grover C.
Lockhart, Leonard
Lowry, John F.
Lucas, John

M

Margrave, John
Mathe, C. J.
Mathe, Betty Kickenapp
Mathers, Eugene E.

Mathers, J. H.
McMillen, W. E.
Melcher, Ray
Mikles, Fred J.
Millanz, William
Million, Rex
Milne, William
Moery, James C.
Morris, Paul
Moysin, Louis
Moysin, Steve

N

Nelson, George H.
Nelson, Richard B.

O

Olson, Alfred
Oltz, Arthur

P

Peach, Dr. Robert H.
Poole, Eutte Evan
Poole, Robert W.
Powley, Dr. J. W.
Pratt, Perry A.
Pursell, William A.*

R

Randle, Vernon
Richardson, H.
Robenhorst, Richard A.
Roberts, John M.
Robinson, H. N.
Rhode, Victor J.
Rhode, Kiff

S

Schernekan, Robert
Schockley, Orville
Scott, Fred B.
Scott, Chas. N.
Sharples, C. E.
Shaw, William B.
Shields, Paul
Short, Mary M.
Short, Robert L.
Short, Roland
Shull, Harry E.
Shull, Kenneth
Smith, William
Smith, James
Stewart, Robert
Stochr, Eugene
Stokes, G. Edward
Strauser, Paul
Strauser, Thomas
Swanson, John A.
Swanson, Edward
Swanson, William C.
Swisher, Charles
Swisher, Rhae

T

Taber, Charles
Thirion, Alfred W.
Thompson, Richard O.
Tinkham, Joseph E.
Trowe, Henry C.
Turbeville, Allen
Turbeville, William G.
Tweedle, Stanley
Tweedle, Thomas

V

Vergin, Don A.
Viden, Theo. C.

W

Wagner, Jack
Wagner, Robert
Waite, Alphonse
Walker, Harold
Walker, Kenneth
Walker, Robert F.
Wall, Loraine
Wall, Marion
Wallace, Don M.
Wallace, Thos. H.
Warner, Damon R.

Warner, Robert D.
Weir, Wallace
Welcome, Kenneth B.
Weyand, Dale R.
Wheeler, Marvin
Whitmire, George Jr.
Wiedman, Gerald
Willett, Dwain
Wilson, Jack
Wilson, Wasson
Winkler, George
Wright, Howard E.
Wylie, Essie M.

Y

Young, Alfred W.
Young, William A.

Z

Zaffora, John

DECEASED — GOLD STARS

Cornwell, Lester, H., Pfc.
Judkins, Wilbur
Ingram, John H. Lieutenant
Pursell, William A.
Schroeder, John C. Sergeant

The beautiful service flags were made by Mrs. R. Short and Mrs. H. C. Trowe.



J T. Otto, Church Secretary



Mrs. J. T. Otto
Church Visitor

Official Family 1946-1947

Trustees

L. L. Caldwell
O. L. Downs
H. E. Folk (Deceased)

E. C. Hackett
R. L. Hidy
R. F. Hoyt

C. E. Nelson
L. A. Milne
J. W. Johnson

Stewards

D. Affleck
J. D. Braund
H. S. Brown
Roy Beucus
J. W. Blume
A. T. Bolt
C. L. Burgess
K. Clark
G. W. Cravens
J. W. Crary
V. F. Davis
D. H. Decker
G. F. Evans
J. R. Goff
H. Hamm
W. F. Heiney
G. R. Hemstock

F. N. Hopper
Carl Houser
James Hughes
Morris Hughes
W. V. Ischie
E. W. Johnson
R. C. Jones
E. Kovach
J. D. Lawyer
Frank Leas
A. F. Lindeman
A. V. Lockhart
Mrs. R. Long
J. A. Lucas
F. W. Malon
S. L. McCall
Mrs. T. W. McCall

Fred Miller
Wayne Milne
J. W. Nelson
W. E. Nichols
O. B. Peterson
R. M. Pierce
H. Peaker
J. W. Reed
I. J. Rusine
Dr. J. C. Stokes
J. D. Terpstra
A. L. Walker
H. E. Warner
C. C. Wiedman
Mrs. L. F. Witham
W. Weil

Church Visitor: Mrs. J. T. Otto

House—

A. F. Lindeman, J. R. Goff, J. W. Crary, F. N. Hopper.

Battle Ground Cottage Trustee—

F. N. Hopper

Recreational—

F. N. Hopper, W. N. Short, L. A. Milne, W. W. Weil, J. A. Lucas, Fred Arndt

Memorials—

Theo. Moor, Mrs. F. W. Malon, Mrs. G. W. Cravens, Mrs. Harry S. Brown

Pulpit Furnishings—

Emery Kovach, J. W. Crary, F. N. Hopper

Veterans—

E. W. Johnson, L. F. Witham, F. N. Hopper, Mrs. H. E. Holloway, Mrs. Harry S. Brown, J. D. Lawyer, R. M. Pierce, J. A. Lucas

Nominating—

Dr. P. B. Smith, L. A. Milne, F. N. Hopper

Membership—

G. W. Cravens, I. J. Rusine, Walter Weil

Finance—

E. C. Hackett, J. W. Johnson, H. E. Folk, Dr. J. C. Stokes, Roy Beucus, A. F. Lindeman, R. L. Hidy, A. W. Clark, L. A. Milne, L. L. Caldwell, W. V. Ischie, Sr.

Pastoral Relations—

L. L. Caldwell, J. W. Johnson, A. W. Clark, E. C. Hackett, R. L. Hidy, W. V. Ischie, Sr., L. A. Milne

Communion Stewards

Mrs. W. J. Slagle, Mrs. Harold Wheeler, Harold Wheeler

Mrs. W. E. Nicholas: W.S.C.S. Treasurer
Mrs. J. G. Stokes, 1946, Mrs. F. N. Hopper, 1947 W.S.C.S. President
A. W. Clark Lay Leader
Mrs. Geo. W. Cravens Dist. Lay Leader
J. T. Malone Sunday School Superintendent



BOARD OF TRUSTEES, 1946-47
 Seated: Carl Nelson, Olin Downs, Harry Folk, J. W. Johnson
 Standing: Rex Hidy, Lester Milne.



BOARD OF TRUSTEES, 1946-47
 Seated: J. Hughes, F. Malon, Mrs. J. T. Otto, Mrs. J. C. Stokes, Mrs. W. E. Nichols, Mrs. C. W. Cravens, G. W. Cravens, S. L. McCall, H. S. Brown.
 Standing: A. L. Walker, W. E. Nichols, F. N. Hopper, J. C. Stokes, R. M. Pierce, C. Houser, M. Hughes, F. Miller, A. W. Clark, W. V. Ischie.

COMMITTEES

Evangelism—

A. W. Clark, Mrs. G. W. Cravens, Miss Mary I. Beal, Mrs. H. E. Holloway, Mrs. C. C. Weidman, Mrs. A. L. Walker, Mrs. J. W. Johnson, L. A. Milne, Mrs. J. T. Otto, Mrs. J. C. Stokes, Theo. Moor

Temperance—

Mrs. G. W. Cravens, Mrs. Lloyd Keeling, A. T. Bolt, E. W. Johnson

Music—

Dr. P. B. Smith, Mrs. F. N. Hopper, Mrs. Robt. Long, Mrs. Lewis Witham

Property—

E. C. Hackett, Victor Davis, G. W. Cravens

World Peace—

Mrs. G. W. Cravens, James Nelson, M.Y.F. President

Good Literature—

Mrs. J. D. Lawyer, Mrs. D. Affleck, J. W. Reed, Mrs. Harry S. Brown

Policy—

L. L. Caldwell, A. W. Clark, H. E. Folk

Audit—

W. E. Nichols, J. R. Goff, J. D. Lawyer, H. Peaker

Records—

G. R. Hemstock, J. D. Lawyer, W. W. Weil

Hospitals Homes—

Mrs. G. W. Cravens, Mrs. Roy Beucus, Mrs. F. W. Malon, Mrs. W. F. Heiney

Church Board of Education—

Miss Mae Kessing, Miss Helen Hogue, Mrs. F. N. Hopper, A. W. Clark, J. T. Malone, L. A. Milne, Mrs. Robt. Long, Mrs. J. T. Otto, W. W. Weil, Mrs. W. W. Weil, Mrs. L. F. Witham

Church Board of Missions and Extensions—

Mrs. G. W. Cravens, Mrs. J. C. Stokes, Miss Mary Beal, J. W. Nelson, Mrs. J. W. Nelson, Miss Mae Kessing, D. Craig Affleck

Official Family 1947-1948

TRUSTEES

L. L. Caldwell
O. L. Downs
E. C. Hackett
R. R. Hidy

J. W. Johnson
L. A. Milne
C. E. Nelson
A. W. Clark
J. T. Otto

STEWARDS

D. Affleck
Dr. J. D. Braund
H. S. Brown
Mrs. H. S. Brown
Roy Beucus
J. W. Blume
A. T. Bolt
C. L. Burgess
A. W. Clark
K. E. Clark
G. W. Cravens
J. W. Crary
Victor Davis
Geo. T. Evans
J. R. Goff
H. Hamm
W. F. Heiney
G. R. Hemstock

F. N. Hopper
Carl Houser
W. V. Ischie, Sr.
Lyle Jackson
E. W. Johnson
Emery Kovach
R. C. Jones
C. H. Lasater
J. D. Lawyer
Frank Leas
A. F. Lindeman
A. V. Lockhart
Mrs. Robt. Long
J. A. Lucas
J. T. Malone
F. W. Malon
S. L. McCall
Mrs. T. W. McCall

Fred Miller
Wayne K. Milne
J. W. Nelson
Walter E. Nichols
Mrs. Walter E. Nichols
O. B. Peterson
Ralph M. Pierce
Harry Peaker
J. W. Reed
I. J. Rusine
Dr. J. C. Stokes
J. D. Terpstra
A. L. Walker
H. F. Warner
C. C. Wiedman
Mrs. L. F. Witham
Walter W. Weil

DISTRICT LAY LEADER—
Mrs. G. W. Cravens

LAY LEADER—
L. A. Milne

PRESIDENT W. S. C. S.
Mrs. F. N. Hopper

COMMUNION STEWARDS—
Harold Wheeler, Mrs. Harold Wheeler, Mrs. J. W. Slagle

SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT—
J. T. Malone

COMMITTEES

MEMBERSHIP—
G. W. Cravens, I. J. Rusine, Walter W. Weil.

FINANCE—
E. C. Hackett, J. W. Johnson, Dr. J. C. Stokes, A. F. Lindeman, R. L. Hidy, Roy Beucus, A. W. Clark, L. A. Milne, L. L. Caldwell, W. V. Ischie, Sr.

NOMINATIONS—
Dr. P. B. Smith, L. A. Milne, J. T. Malone

PASTORAL RELATIONS—
L. L. Caldwell, J. W. Johnson, A. W. Clark, E. C. Hackett, R. L. Hidy, W. V. Ischie, Sr., L. A. Milne.

AUDIT—
Walter E. Nichols, J. R. Goff, L. A. Milne, W. F. Heiney

RECORDS—
G. R. Hemstock, A. L. Walker, Joseph D. Lawyer

HOSPITALS AND HOMES—

Mrs. G. W. Cravens, Mrs. Roy Beucus, Mrs. F. W. Malon, Mrs. W. F. Heiney, Mrs. A. L. Walker

CHURCH BOARD OF EDUCATION—

Mrs. J. C. Stokes, Miss Helen Hogue, Miss Donna Heiney, Mrs. Lyle Jackson, Mrs. F. N. Hopper, Mrs. Geo. T. Evans, A. W. Clark, J. T. Malone, L. A. Milne, Lewis Unnewehr, Miss Betty Kovach.

OTHER MEMBERS—

Mrs. Robt. Long, Mrs. J. T. Otto, Walter Weil, Mrs. Walter Weil, Mrs. L. F. Witham, Lyle Jackson, Mrs. H. C. Crary.

CHURCH BOARD OF MISSIONS AND CHURCH EXTENSION—

Mrs. G. W. Cravens, Mrs. J. C. Stokes, Miss Mary Beal, J. W. Nelson.

OTHER MEMBERS—

J. W. Johnson, J. D. Terpstra, Lyle Jackson, Mrs. A. L. Walker.

EVANGELISM—

Mrs. J. T. Otto, Evangelism Secretaries of W.S.C.S., M.Y.F., Young Adult Group, Philathea, Baraca Philathea, High School Class, Men's Class.

TEMPERANCE—

Mrs. G. W. Cravens, Mrs. Lloyd Keeling, A. T. Bolt, E. W. Johnson, Mrs. J. C. Stokes.

MUSIC—

Dr. P. B. Smith, Mrs. F. N. Hopper, Pres. M.Y.F., Mrs. Robt. Long, Mrs. L. F. Witham.

PARSONAGE—

Mrs. F. N. Hopper, J. W. Blume, L. L. Caldwell.

PROPERTY—

E. C. Hackett, Victor Davis, F. N. Hopper.

WORLD PEACE—

Mrs. G. W. Cravens, J. W. Nelson, Pres. M.Y.F.

GOOD LITERATURE—

Mrs. Jos. D. Lawyer, Mrs. D. Affleck, Mrs. Harry S. Brown

POLICY—

L. L. Caldwell, A. W. Clark.

HOUSE—

A. F. Lindeman, J. R. Goff, J. W. Crary, F. N. Hopper.

SCOUTING—

F. N. Hopper, W. N. Short, W. K. Milne, W. W. Weil, J. A. Lucas, Fred Arndt.

RECREATION—

W. K. Milne, Victor Davis, G. W. Cravens.

MEMORIALS—

Theo. Moor, Mrs. F. W. Malon, Mrs. G. W. Cravens, Mrs. Harry Peaker.

VETERANS—

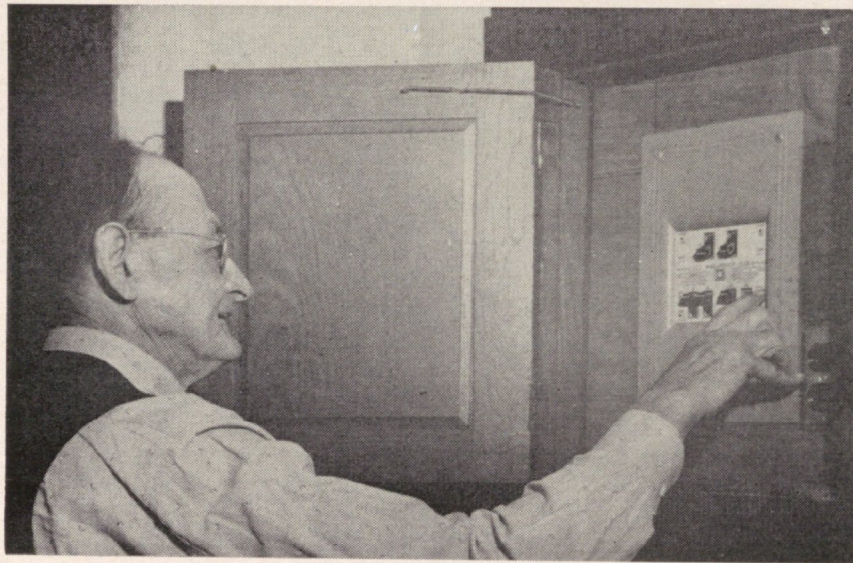
E. W. Johnson, John W. Blume, Mrs. Jos. D. Lawyer, Mrs. W. V. Ischie.

VISUAL EDUCATION—

Mrs. G. W. Cravens, Marvin Wheeler, John Weber, George Rusine, Corlis Beck.

NOMINATING—

Dr. P. B. Smith, L. A. Milne, F. N. Hopper.



L. J. Haefer, Custodian

Custodians

The membership of First Church will always be grateful to the custodians of the church who served so many years to keep the church warm and comfortable. In the frame church N. W. Snodgrass served several years. He was followed by Newton Zoll who also served over a long period. The work did not require so much time as the church was not so large and there were not so many different rooms to be heated. However, the winters were very cold and long, beginning about Thanksgiving time.

On days the church was to be in use, these men could be seen before day break, plodding their way to the church to get the fires going so that there would be warmth and comfort for those attending.

When the present church was built, a modern heating plant made the work less arduous. But with so much more space to care for the custodian had to give more time to the work. Sweeping, dusting, cleaning required so much time. In later years E. E. Stetson served over a long period of time as has the present custodian. Mr. Haefer not only looks after the heating and cleaning of the church, keeping it in shape for regular and special services, but he also must be on hand to help the women of the W.S.C.S. get tables placed for their luncheons and dinners. He sees that there is always plenty of hot water for their use, takes care of the coffee urns, helps carry in supplies and does all sorts of odd jobs for them.

On Special Sundays, one finds him in the parking lot directing the parking of cars and after the service, he stands at the entrance to the lot to keep the traffic moving.

The church custodian is a busy man. His tasks are many yet he is always willing to give aid wherever and whenever needed.



Calumet Avenue South from Sibley Street — 1947



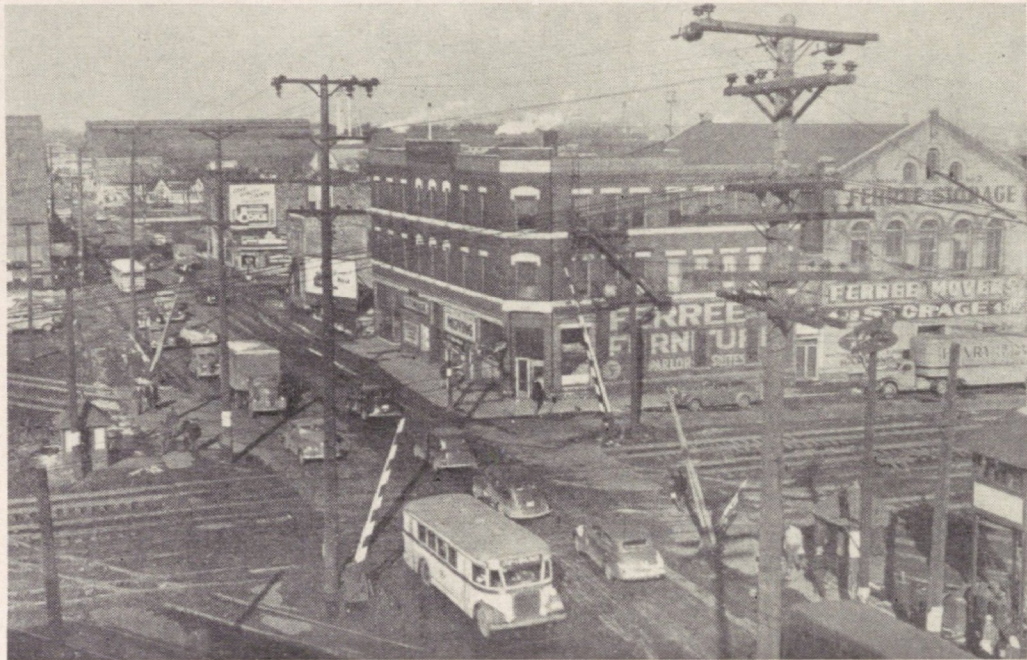
Skyline from atop the Lafayette School Building, Sibley and Calumet — 1947

GIFTS

- First Organ—
Mrs. Louisa Beall
- First Communion Service—
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Hammond
- Song Books for Young People—
Theodore Moor
- Hymnals—
Miss Mary Beal
- Hymnals—
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Schroeder
- Communion Altar—
Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Otto
- Candelabra—
Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Otto
- Pulpit Lamp—
College and High School Students
- Lectern Lamp—
Miss Holley and
Miss Carmen McNeil
- Special Gifts—
Mr. and Mrs. H. Peaker
Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Shepherd
Mr. and Mrs. S. L. McCall
Miss Laura Baril
- Windows—
Women's Foreign Missionary Society
Women's Home Missionary Society
- Pulpit—(Chapel)
Geo. Pearson and wife
- Gold Cross and Candlesticks in Chapel for MYF—
J. T. Otto
- Fan—
Mrs. Lelah Shorb
- Chair and Lamp for Pastor's Study—
E. Stanley Jones Circle, 1943-44 W.S.C.S.
- Hymnals—
Mrs. Sophie Siegrist
- Large Flower Vases—
Mrs. L. L. Caldwell and W.S.C.S.—Asbury Circle
1945-46
- Two Pianos—
Mr. and Mrs. Wm. O'Donnell

MEMORIALS

- First Pipe Organ in memory of sister Harriett—Miss Alice Sohl
- Windows—
Belman—W. C. Belman
Irena S. Towle—Towle family
Stephen W. Ripley—Mrs. Stephen Ripley
Ethel Dake—Mrs. Etta Dake
Arthur David Nason—Nason Family
A. VanValkenburg—Van Valkenburg Family
Mary Van De Walker—Dr. Van De Walker
- Plaque—
Mrs. A. E. Wilcox—Ladies Aid Society
- Individual Service Communion Set, in memory of Mr. Hammond—Mrs. Thomas Hammond
- Gold Collection Plates, in memory of H. A. McConnell and Harry Voight—Mrs. H. A. McConnell, Mrs. Harry Voight
- Large Gold Cross, in memory of Mrs. Cody—Judge Cody
- Gold Vases, in memory of Mrs. C. B. Tinkham—C. B. Tinkham
- Chimes, The Singing Tower, in memory of Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Shearer—W. S. Shearer Family
- New Pulpit, in memory of Lester H. Cornwell—Mrs. Lester Cornwell
- Lectern, in memory of Mrs. Anna Milne—Mr. and Mrs. Lester Milne
- Baptismal Font, in memory of Dr. and Mrs. Bassett—Theodore Moor
- Pulpit Hymnal, in memory of L. B. Whitezell—Mrs. L. B. Whitezell



Hohman Avenue, North, showing railroad crossing, American Steel Foundry (Simplex Plant) in distance — 1947



Calumet Avenue looking North from Sibley Street — 1947

Methodism History, Northwest Indiana Conference

As early as 1802 there were seven Conferences in Methodism. One was called the Western Conference with boundaries unlimited to the westward. Before that time, there were names of ministers who were called Presiding Elders, over groups of preachers. In the Western Conference in 1802 there was a Kentucky District, and in that district an appointment to Indiana Territory. In 1804, there were two districts that touched Indiana Territory, the Ohio District and the Kentucky district. In 1808, there was an Indiana district and in 1811 there was an Illinois District but no Indiana District.

In 1812, there was an Ohio Conference, and several appointments from the Miami District were made in Indiana. There was also a Missouri Conference with an Illinois District that had appointments in Indiana. In 1825, there was an Illinois Conference. Its first session was held at Bloomington, Indiana, September 28th. In the Charleston District, the Presiding Elder was James Armstrong. Hackaliah Vrenderburg was appointed to Crawfordsville. This is the first appointment by name, in the present territory of the Northwest Indiana Conference. This conference was organized in 1852.

Illinois Conference, Charleston, Indiana, August 25, 1825.

Bishops present—Wm. McKendree, Robert R. Roberts

Presiding Elder, Charleston District—James Armstrong

Appointment—Crawfordsville—Hackaliah Vrenderberg

Illinois Conference, Bloomington, Indiana, Sept. 28, 1826

Bishops—Robert R. Roberts, Joshua Soule

Presiding Elder—James Armstrong

Appointment—Crawfordsville—Henry Buel

Illinois Conference, Mt. Carmel, Illinois, 1827.

Bishop—Robert R. Roberts

Presiding Elder—James Armstrong

Appointment—Crawfordsville—Eli P. Farmer

Illinois Conference, Madison, Indiana, Oct. 8, 1828

Bishop—Robert R. Roberts

Presiding Elder—John Strange

Appointment—Crawfordsville—Stephen R. Beggs

Illinois Conference—Edwardsville, Illinois, Sept. 18, 1829

Bishop—Joshua Soule

Presiding Elder—John Strange

Appointments—Greencastle, Rockville, Crawfordsville

Illinois Conference, Vincennes, Indiana, Sept. 30, 1830

Bishop Roberts ill so Bishop Samuel Thompson presided.

Indianapolis District—

Presiding Elder—James Armstrong

Appointments—Greencastle, Rockville, Crawfordsville

Illinois Conference—Indianapolis, Indiana, Oct. 4, 1831

Indianapolis and Crawfordsville Districts

Presiding Elder—James Armstrong, Crawfordsville District

First mention of the South Bend Mission with N. B. Griffith.

In 1832 the Indiana Conference was organized at New Albany, Oct. 17, 1832.

Frem here on, only the districts will be mentioned which concern the Calumet Region and later Hammond.

Bishop—Joshua Soule

LaPort Mission—James Armstrong

South Bend Mission—R. S. Robinson, Geo. M. Beswick

Indiana Conference, Madison, Oct. 16, 1833.

Bishop—Joshua Soule

Northwest District

Presiding Elder—James Armstrong

South Bend Mission—Boyd Phelps

LaPorte Mission not mentioned.

Indiana Conference, Centerville, Oct. 22, 1834

LaPorte District

Presiding Elder—Richard Hargrave
LaPorte Circuit
South Bend Circuit

Indiana Conference, LaFayette, Oct. 4, 1835.

Bishop—Robert R. Roberts
LaPorte District

Presiding Elder—Richard Hargrave
LaPorte Circuit
South Bend Circuit

Indiana Conference, Indianapolis, Oct. 26, 1836.

Bishop—Robert R. Roberts
LaPorte District
Presiding Elder—Richard Hargraves

This year marks the beginning of Methodism in Lake County.

Rev. Stephen Jones sent from South Bend Mission, preached at Thomas Reed Cabin near Crown Point. Later in year organized the first Methodist Episcopal Class near Pleasant Grove.

| YEAR | BISHOP | PRESIDING ELDER | DISTRICT |
|------|---------------------------------------|-------------------|------------|
| 1837 | Joshua Soule | Richard Hargrave | LaPorte |
| 1838 | Joshua Soule | Aaron Wood* | LaPorte |
| 1839 | Joshua Soule | Aaron Wood | South Bend |
| 1840 | Joshua Soule | Aaron Wood | South Bend |
| 1841 | Robert R. Roberts | Aaron Wood | South Bend |
| 1842 | T. A. Morris | Wm. A. Goode | South Bend |
| 1843 | J. O. Andrew | Chas. M. Holliday | South Bend |
| 1844 | Northern Indiana Conference Organized | | |
| 1844 | Beverly Waugh | Chas. M. Holliday | South Bend |
| 1845 | Leonidas L. Hamline | Chas. M. Holliday | South Bend |
| 1846 | Thomas A. Morris | John Daniels | LaPorte |
| 1847 | Edmund S. Janes | John Daniels | LaPorte |
| 1848 | Leonidas L. Hamline | John Daniels | LaPorte |
| 1849 | Beverly Waugh | John Daniels | LaPorte |
| 1850 | Edmund J. Janes | John L. Smith | LaPorte |
| 1851 | Thomas A. Morris | John L. Smith | LaPorte |

In 1852, the Northwest Indiana Conference was organized. This conference applied to the Calumet Region of that time altho there was no Methodist Church nearer than Crown Point. Our interest begins with 1872 when the first church was established in Hammond.

* Grandfather of Rev. A. W. Wood of First Church.

| YEAR | BISHOP | DIST. SUPT. | DISTRICT | PASTOR AT HAMMOND |
|------|--------------------|------------------|------------|----------------------|
| 1872 | Edmund S. Janes | Wm. R. Mikels | Valparaiso | Williams |
| 1873 | Matthew Simpson | Wm. R. Mikels | Valparaiso | Williams |
| 1874 | Isaac W. Wiley | Wm. R. Mikels | Valparaiso | Williams |
| 1875 | Edmund S. Janes | Russell D. Utter | Valparaiso | Williams |
| 1876 | Matthew Simpson | Russell D. Utter | Valparaiso | Baker |
| 1877 | Stephen M. Merrill | Russell D. Utter | Valparaiso | (Sunday School Only) |
| 1878 | Jesse T. Peck | Russell D. Utter | Valparaiso | Stewart |
| 1879 | Randolph S. Foster | Samuel Godfrey | Valparaiso | Stewart |
| 1880 | Thomas Bowman | Samuel Godfrey | Valparaiso | (Sunday School Only) |
| 1881 | Edward G. Andrews | F. M. Pavey | LaPorte | S. E. Vinal |
| 1882 | Jesse T. Peck | F. M. Pavey | LaPorte | Wm. Crapp |
| 1883 | Wm. L. Harris | F. M. Pavey | LaPorte | Edwin A. Schell |
| 1884 | Randolph S. Foster | F. M. Pavey | LaPorte | Edwin A. Schell |
| 1885 | Cyrus D. Foss | Sampel Beck | LaPorte | Edwin A. Schell |
| 1886 | S. M. Merrill | J. L. Smith | LaPorte | S. P. Edmonson |

(Hammond now becomes part of Valparaiso District)

| | | | |
|------|-----------------|--------------|----------------|
| 1887 | Thomas Bowman | J. L. Smith | S. P. Edmonson |
| 1888 | E. G. Andrews | J. L. Smith | S. P. Edmonson |
| 1889 | John F. Hurst | J. L. Smith | G. R. Streeter |
| 1890 | Chas. H. Fowler | J. L. Smith | G. R. Streeter |
| 1891 | W. X. Ninde | J. H. Wilson | G. R. Streeter |

| | | | |
|------|--------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| 1892 | J. N. Fitzgerald | J. H. Wilson | G. R. Streeter |
| 1893 | Isaac N. Joyce | J. H. Wilson | A. H. DeLong |
| 1894 | W. F. Mallelieu | J. H. Wilson | A. H. DeLong |
| 1895 | S. M. Merrill | J. H. Wilson | E. P. Bennett |
| 1896 | E. G. Andrews | Samuel Beck | E. P. Bennett |
| 1897 | J. M. Walden | Samuel Beck | M. H. Appleby |
| 1898 | H. W. Warren | Samuel Beck | M. H. Appleby |
| 1899 | J. F. Hurst | Samuel Beck | N. A. Chamberlain |
| 1900 | Daniel A. Goodsell | Samuel Beck | A. W. Wood |
| 1901 | J. N. Fitzgerald | Samuel Beck | A. W. Wood |
| 1902 | J. H. Vincent | D. M. Wood | A. W. Wood |
| 1903 | I. W. Joyce | D. M. Wood | A. W. Wood |
| 1904 | Earl Cranston | D. M. Wood | L. S. Smith |
| 1905 | C. H. Fowler | D. M. Wood | L. S. Smith |
| 1906 | J. W. Hamilton | D. M. Wood | L. S. Smith |
| 1907 | W. F. McDowell | D. M. Wood | W. F. Switzer |

HAMMOND DISTRICT

| | | | |
|------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| 1908 | J. F. Berry | A. T. Briggs | W. F. Switzer |
| 1909 | D. A. Goodsell | A. T. Briggs | W. F. Switzer |
| 1910 | David H. Moore | A. T. Briggs | W. F. Switzer |
| 1911 | W. F. McDowell | A. T. Briggs | W. F. Switzer |
| 1912 | Chas. W. Smith | A. T. Briggs | F. O. Fraley |
| 1913 | W. F. McDowell | A. T. Briggs | F. O. Fraley |
| 1914 | W. F. McDowell | M. H. Appleby | F. O. Fraley |
| 1915 | W. F. McDowell | M. H. Appleby | F. O. Fraley |
| 1916 | W. F. McDowell | M. H. Appleby | Dr. T. J. Bassett |
| 1917 | Thos. Nicholson | M. H. Appleby | Dr. T. J. Bassett |
| 1918 | Thos. Nicholson | Henry L. Davis | Dr. T. J. Bassett |
| 1919 | Thos. Nicholson | Henry L. Davis | Dr. T. J. Bassett |
| 1920 | Thos. Nicholson | Henry L. Davis | Dr. Benjamin Rist |
| 1921 | F. D. Lette | W. E. McKenzie | Dr. Benjamin Rist |
| 1922 | F. D. Lette | W. E. McKenzie | Dr. Benjamin Rist |
| 1923 | F. D. Lette | W. E. McKenzie | Dr. Benjamin Rist |
| 1924 | F. D. Lette | W. E. McKenzie | Dr. U. G. Leazenby |
| 1925 | F. D. Lette | B. D. Beck | Dr. U. G. Leazenby |
| 1926 | F. D. Lette | B. D. Beck | Dr. U. G. Leazenby |
| 1927 | F. D. Lette | B. D. Beck | Dr. U. G. Leazenby |
| 1928 | F. D. Lette | B. D. Beck | Dr. C. C. Ford |
| 1929 | Edgar Blake | B. D. Beck | Dr. C. C. Ford |
| 1930 | Edgar Blake | B. D. Beck | Dr. C. C. Ford |
| 1931 | Edgar Blake | C. H. Taylor | Elmer Jones |
| 1932 | Edgar Blake | C. H. Taylor | Elmer Jones |
| 1933 | Edgar Blake | C. H. Taylor | Elmer Jones |
| 1934 | Edgar Blake | C. H. Taylor | Dr. James Lawson* |
| 1935 | Edgar Blake | Elmer Jones | Dr. James Lawson |
| 1936 | Edgar Blake | Elmer Jones | Dr. James Lawson |
| 1937 | Edgar Blake | Elmer Jones | Dr. James Lawson |
| 1938 | Edgar Blake | Elmer Jones | Dr. James Lawson |
| 1939 | Titus Lowe | Elmer Jones | Dr. James Lawson |
| 1940 | Titus Lowe | Elmer Jones | Dr. James Lawson |
| 1941 | Titus Lowe | J. A. Holmes | Dr. James Lawson |
| 1942 | Titus Lowe | J. A. Holmes | Dr. P. B. Smith* |
| 1943 | Titus Lowe | J. A. Holmes | Dr. P. B. Smith |
| 1944 | Titus Lowe | J. A. Holmes | Dr. P. B. Smith |
| 1945 | Titus Lowe | J. A. Holmes | Dr. P. B. Smith |
| 1946 | Titus Lowe | E. Burns Martin | Dr. P. B. Smith |
| 1947 | Titus Lowe | E. Burns Martin | Dr. P. B. Smith |

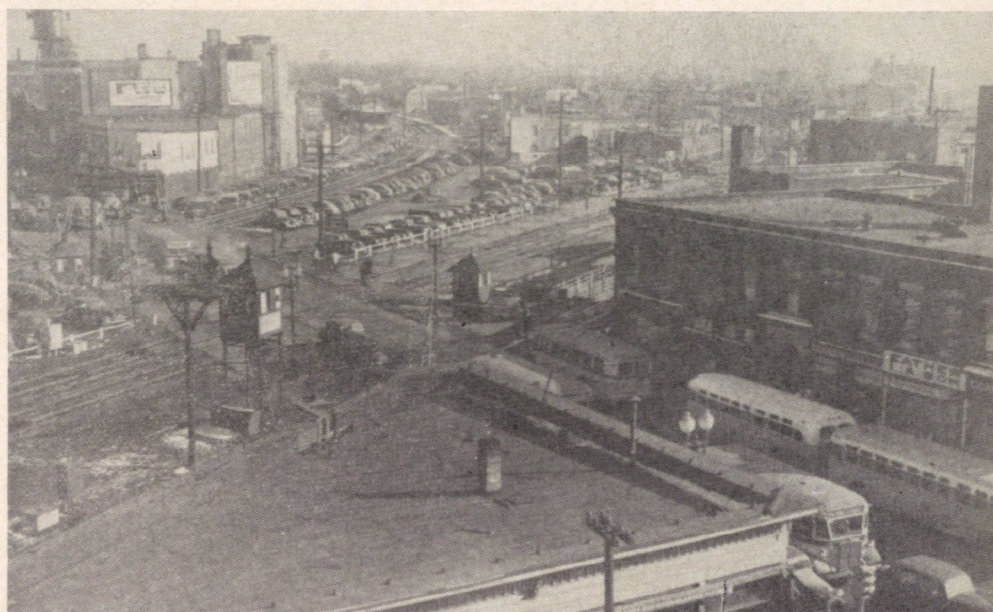
In 1836 and for many years following, there was no area system in Methodism. The bishops were General Superintendents and each was expected to travel throughout the whole community. The area system is rather recent.

* Feb. 1, 1934

* Dec. 7, 1941



Busy Hohman Avenue, at State Street, 1947



State Street east from Hohman Avenue, 1947

Altho Hammond was unheard of in the early years of Methodism in Indiana, it would have come under the LaPorte District or Deep River Mission.

The first mention of the Valparaiso District was in 1861. This district continued under that name until 1908 when the name was changed to the Hammond District, which continued for six years. In 1914 the Hammond District was merged with the South Bend District and so it has remained. As will be noted, the size of the Districts changed as modes of travel changed. In the earlier days, a presiding elder was kept quite busy trying to visit all the churches in his charge. So the districts could not involve so many churches. With the coming of the automobile and better transportation methods, many of the smaller districts were merged forming larger districts.

In His Wisdom

Man has been wonderfully made and created. We believe it is safe to say that he has been working, in his weak way, to learn of himself, with the known means at hand, for ages. It strikes us, from records left for us to investigate that more rapid strides have been made in the different branches of science in this, the closing of the nineteenth century than any prior period, accounted for, possibly, as man becomes more tolerant, he becomes more investigative and intelligent. Intelligence in a community invites progress and is a stimulus for advancement. "Know thyself", seems to be a very good motto. The diagnosis of many an inmate of an asylum, as now viewed by the scientist, guarantees the assertion that many have been placed there, that would not have been, had the pathology of their cases been known; and further prognosticates that many that are now there are curable, science having been fully developed in the direction of the case.

A case of normal vision among the inmates of our asylums and prisons is said to be rare, and that 22½% of the children in our schools have ocular trouble which should be attended to expertly. That faculty of vision shapes largely the destiny of man, and warps or fashions his fate or normal nature, there is little doubt.

If your vision is not acute enough to see the pastor in the pulpit, from the point where you sit in the service and catch every gesture, facial expression, in fact look into the very factory of his mind when he is driving home a point that is intended for your good, you surely need glasses that measure the anomaly of refraction.

Of course this is not intended for those who use the service as an anaesthetic to produce sleep, or in other words, those who sleep in church. However, there are many such sleepers, who have bad vision and, not seeing as they should, their condition augments drowsiness, and nature being king, overrules the actual good breeding of the individual, who has been taught that to sleep in company is impolite and insulting even tho the snoring is left out.

C. W. DELANEY, *Optician*
1895

The above article appeared in the Methodist Episcopal Church Directory of 1895. F. Derril Reed, of the Hyde Park Church, loaned his copy which had belonged to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Reed.

The Pastor's Address to You

Is your name in this book, dear friend?
Think not to live and yet be dead.
Be true to vows, on Christ depend:
Let warm and constant prayers be said,
Shun lucre's bribe and Juda's kiss;
Make no unrighteous compromise,
Nor Thomas-like, one meeting miss;
Impelled by love to sacrifice,
Your substance and your toil bestow;
Prove your name meet for such a place,
By what you are and what you do—
There is no substitute for grace.
Is your name not thus recorded?
Then give your heart at once to God.
Hopes are vain and ever sordid
That perish with the fleshy clod.
But if you now your sins repent
And through Christ have all forgiven,
Your name will shine when life is spent,
In the Directory of Heaven.

Contributed by Rev. A. H. DeLong
1895

*From the 1895 directory of the Methodist Episcopal Church.
Loaned by F. Derril Reed.*



The cast of the pageant, "Old First in Song and Story."—April 22, 1947



THE STREETERS

Mrs. Streeter—Mrs. J. D. Lawyer, Rev. Streeter—R. M. Pierce,
Ethel—Diane Milne



Arriving for church services — In foreground, Mrs. J. W. Johnson, Mrs. Robert Long, Mrs. J. P. Smith, Mrs. W. V. Ischie, Mrs. J. C. Stokes, A. W. Clark, Mrs. W. E. Barnes.

Activities and Interests

The people who compose the membership of First Church have many interests and activities outside of the actual church organizations. Wherever kindly help and service are needed, will be found Methodist men and women giving hours of time and financial aid to promote that which is good and serviceable to mankind.

In years gone by they worked zealously against the liquor traffic along with the Women's Christian Temperance Union and the Anti-Saloon League. They have been firm in their stand against everything that has not been for the good of the people. And so, in early years, they no doubt, did play an important part in the political life of the town.

They sponsor both Boy Scout and Girl Scout units. Names of Methodist men and women appear on the rolls as leaders. One of the most active of these was W. C. Belman who gave both time and money to help promote these institutions that have meant so much in the lives of the boys and girls.

Ever since the Hammond unit of the American Red Cross was organized, Methodist men and women have served as officers and members. This is a national organization devoted to acts of mercy, to saving lives and homes in times of disaster, to teaching superior swimming methods, to providing warm clothing and food and nursing service for the poor and sick.

Outstanding on the board of directors of the Goodwill Industries are familiar names of members of First Church. Nearly all the women of the Women's Society of Christian Service are members of the Goodwill Auxiliary. The Goodwill Industries is a banding together of civic minded citizens to try to give handicapped and poor people a chance to preserve their pride and still be able to buy the things they need. This is done by collecting and working over discarded articles and then selling them cheaply to people who need them.

The stringent safety-rules of modern industry have barred so many of our handicapped people from employment in the great mills and factories. The Goodwill Industries answers a great need.

Campbell Friendship House of Gary is one of the projects supported by our Women's Society of Christian Service. Our local society, thru its Supply Chairman gives money and useful articles to help support Friendship House.

Campbell Friendship House, like Brooks House in our own city, maintains Americanization classes that teach the methods of life in America and what is demanded of a respectable citizen. It maintains a library, social affairs, handicraft classes, religious services and a nursery, where working mothers may safely leave little folk, during the hours they must be away. These children are well cared for, kept clean, given wholesome food and taught healthful clean habits.

Our neighbor across the street from our church, the Y. W. C. A. is so near and has so many of our women deeply interested in the organization, that it seems almost a part of our group.

Due to the kindly interest of many Hammond people the Y. W. C. A. answers a long felt need in a city such as Hammond. It offers safety and protection to young women coming as strangers to seek employment in our midst, and having no idea of where they may seek the right kind of shelter until they become better acquainted and if possible, find permanent quarters. The Y. W. C. A. offers Christian fellowship and home life among young women who believe in right living. It offers various forms of entertainment, interest clubs, and the kind of life that is so necessary to the stranger.

So we work together and a warm, close friendship exists between Methodist women and the Y. W. C. A.



Business Meeting of early G. H. Hammond Company Officials — Fred Miller, Robert Long, Curtis Brunsdon, A. W. Clark, Theo Moor, Fred Malon, Mrs. H. S. Brown, Pageant Director.



An 1889 Methodist Class Meeting—Curtis Brunsdon speaking. In foreground Ralph M. Pierce, as Rev. G. R. Streeter, Mrs. J. D. Lawyer, as Mrs. Streeter, Mrs. Ethel Streeter Holway at the piano

The Year Nineteen Forty-seven

The year 1947 has been a great year for First Church. It marked three anniversaries; first, the seventy-fifth anniversary of its organization; the sixty-fifth as a member of the Northwest Indiana Conference; and lastly, the fortieth anniversary of the dedication of the present church building.

Surely such events could not pass by unnoticed. Early in the year a group of women, Mrs. J. C. Stokes, Mrs. R. M. Pierce, Mrs. Roy Beucus, Mrs. Orphey Nelson, Mrs. W. G. Slagle, Mrs. Ethel Holway, and Mrs. H. S. Brown met together to discuss plans to celebrate.

Finally it was decided that a pageant and dinner would be the methods used. Mrs. H. S. Brown was asked to write the story. Again and again these women met together to discuss material, characters and costumes.

Mrs. Brown chose, "Old First In Song and Story," as the title for the pageant. Characters were chosen and the real work began. Mrs. G. W. Cravens served as the chairman of the costume committee and Mrs. J. Will Belshaw as chairman of the music committee.

The Hammond Times of April 20th, 1947 said, "Ralph M. Pierce of 35 Ogden St. Hammond, will portray the former Rev. G. R. Streeter, pastor of the First Methodist Church in 1889, when an historical pageant of the oldest congregation in the region, will be portrayed by members of First Methodist, Tuesday evening."

Quoting from the Hammond Times of April 23, 1947,

"CHURCH PROGRAM RECALLS EARLY HAMMOND HISTORY"

"A variety of characters, situations and moods with music, aided in making an historical pageant 'Old First In Song and Story' a success last night, when a capacity audience witnessed the dramatization of the 75 year history of the First Methodist Church at 219 Russell St. In all, 60 members of the congregation took part in the five part, 33 scene pageant. Actors portrayed the early pastors and members of the First Methodist Congregation. The women attired in the long full dresses typical of the bustle era of the late 19th century, were the center of attention because of their clothes and dress during the greater part of the evening.

"'Old First in Song and Story' written by Mrs. Harry S. Brown of 7135 Hohman, also presented many scenes, picturing services and meetings of the old congregation, which was founded in 1872.

"The congregational singing in these scenes was evidently enjoyed by the audience as the players sang, 'The Old Time Religion', 'You Go to Your Church and I'll Go to Mine', and 'Shall we Gather at the River?'

"A number of solo selections and quartettes in typical 19th Century style were sung."

Those who participated in the celebration were well pleased with their work. People had been so kind in lending the lovely costumes of another day, in order that the pageant might be more colorful. As the days came and went, First Church received many congratulations upon the evening's entertainment. Many were heard to say that these early Methodists had something that was somehow missing in our modern life.

In presenting the pageant, it was the hope that the people would think not only of chronological events, but that they would catch the spirit and vision of the founders, and that they, too, might be inspired to carry on the work these early people lay down.

On Thursday, April 24th, over 300 members of the congregation gathered in the dining room for an "old fashioned" chicken pie supper served by the Women's Society of Christian Service. Here they heard reports from the Chairman of the Building Fund Campaign, Mr. John Blume. First Church is again engaged in raising funds for a new unit.

At first it was thought that this unit would be built at the rear of the present building and the old part be remodelled to meet the needs of the times. But as time went on, many felt that would not be the solution. Many of the members had visited new churches in the course of construction and felt that this plan was not adequate. Every one feels that First Church answers to a demand that no other church in the region is called upon to meet. They are agreed that it must stay where it is but must acquire more ground, if possible, so as to carry out these new plans.

In days gone by, the Methodists had made mistakes. They left their location on the corner which has since become so valuable. They were not farsighted when Hammond began to "boom" and did not procure the ground needed so badly now. Possibly the people who seemed to control the destinies of the church, did not dream that First Church would be called upon to render the kind of service it does today. Dr. Rist, during his pastorate saw this, but labored in vain to get his official family to agree with him. Many then, knew that he was right but did not have the courage to carry out their convictions. Dr. Ford, also felt the time had come to go forward, but he, too, was voted down.

So today, there is no question as to what must be done. The sanctuary is too small to comfortably seat the crowds that come to the church services. The Sunday School is cramped and crowded. The Youth have no place for much of their work. The kitchen and dining room facilities are inadequate and recreation activities are limited. But as materials become more plentiful and wartime priorities are lifted, it is hoped that prices will be better, making it possible to put up a better structure. As the campaign goes on, it is the hope of the membership that ere long they will have a place large enough to meet all the demands made upon the downtown church.



Mrs. Robert Long. "Phew! Slaughter House!"

The Women's Society of Christian Service has pledged \$20,000 toward the new building. This is quite a sum for them to raise aside from their regular budget. Recognizing the need for proper organization to carry on the work involved, it was decided to appoint a special Chairman of a Building Fund Committee. The President, Mrs. F. N. Hopper, appointed Mrs. Ralph Pierce to head this committee. Mrs. Pierce selected twenty women to work with her in planning activities.

So following out this idea and in recognition of the Fortieth Anniversary of the dedication of the present edifice, they presented Mable Powley Harper, a dramatic recitalist, on June 30th. From time to time, they hope to present some form of entertainment, interesting and inspiring, and use the proceeds toward meeting their obligations.

The sale of the Church History, "Thru the Years with Old First," will be handled by the Women's Society of Christian Service and the proceeds also will go toward their pledge.

Hammond is rapidly nearing a population of 80,000 people yet the same questions are paramount as they were in days of yore. The city fathers still talk about track elevation to eliminate traffic dangers and tie-ups. The housing question is worse than ever before. Many new industries grew up during the war period and brought thousands here, enticed by the high wages. Many did not return to their former homes and so the town became more crowded. Real estate prices are higher than they have ever been during the town's history. The Board of Education has the same old problems; more new buildings, but no funds: and what can they do to take care of the children? Where will they locate the new Technical High School? This has been a burning question for years. The old Central building, serving now as Tech, is no longer safe nor large enough.

Many "store front" churches came into being during the war period and have lingered on. Seemingly they have quite a following or they would not have remained with us.

The streets are crowded, since gas rationing is over. Buses and automobiles make walking hazardous. Street cars have entirely disappeared, the Gary Railways being the last to offer modern comfortable buses in place of the noisy, clanging cars.

A super highway, connecting the cities of Detroit and Chicago, is to be built within the next few years. This road will cut across the southern border of the city and houses standing upon ground in its path must be moved elsewhere or torn down.

The town of Hobart, to the eastward, has just celebrated its 100th anniversary. The little village of Hessville has grown into a modern community with attractive homes, and is now a part of the city of Hammond. It too, staged a celebration of its 100th anniversary. The Chicago, Indianapolis and Louisville, the Monon, now called rightfully, "The Hoosier Line," is marking its 100th birthday. The route passing thru Hammond is really the newer part of the system and is not nearly so old, coming into this region in the early eighties.

All of these celebrations tell a vivid story of the settlement and growth of the Calumet. It is so new in comparison with other parts of Indiana. Hence First Church has been a great factor in this growth and, as was said at the beginning of this history, its story is the story of the region.

Dr. Smith has been returned to us as our pastor for another year. The congregation is very happy and hopes to have him for years to come.

This year of 1947 has also brought much sadness to us. Several of the active members have been called "home" and they are greatly missed. Others, who have given so much of time and talent, have moved elsewhere or feel that they should step down and give their places to younger people.

The year 1947 marked the passing of the last charter member of Old First, Mrs. A. A. Winslow. Ours is a changing congregation, typical of the times and the region; yet it is a strong active group of people, earnest and sincere.

Seventy-five years! During these years the old wood burning locomotive became a relic. Coal provided more power and faster trains. The old wooden coaches are obsolete; steel trains are much safer. Today trim stream-lined trains, diesel powered, flash across the country. Every convenience has been provided to make travel a pleasure.

The world is geared to speed. We must go where we are going in the shortest time possible. Great silver air planes gleam across our skies carrying passengers, mail or freight.

The modern housewife has so many conveniences and gadgets to make her work pleasant, but, seemingly she is busier than her grandmother of covered wagon days, for she has so many interests and activities. Busy people everywhere! Sometimes when we pause, we wonder if it is all worth while and are we getting the most of the best life has to offer.

A church of service! During the years that Dr. Smith has been with First Church, the following statistics give an idea of some of the work done by the Pastor of the church, aside from the sermons, interviews and other work demanded. Mr. Otto, our Church secretary, took time out from his many duties, to prepare the following items of interest. They give one something to think about.



S. L. McCall as Rev. Lewis Smith announces hymn
"Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus"



Rev. Elmer Jones, former pastor, greeting the audience.



Dr. Phillips Brooks Smith, present pastor, quoting
from his first sermon at First Church on Dec. 7, 1941.

| BAPTISMALS | | DEATHS—MEMBERS ONLY | |
|---------------------|----|---------------------|----|
| 1942 | 54 | | 14 |
| 1943 | 63 | | 10 |
| 1944 | 45 | | 14 |
| 1945 | 50 | | 12 |
| 1946 | 66 | | 12 |
| 1947 (to June 30th) | 70 | | 8 |
| Total | | 348 | 70 |

| WEDDINGS | | NEW MEMBERS | |
|---------------------|----|-------------|-----|
| 1942 | 35 | | 90 |
| 1943 | 18 | | 102 |
| 1944 | 25 | | 82 |
| 1945 | 28 | | 87 |
| 1946 | 55 | | 151 |
| 1947 (to June 30th) | 30 | | 81 |
| Total | | 191 | 593 |

The years are the calendar year, January thru December.

In his report to Conference as of June 1, 1947, Mr. Otto lists 1801 members, 210 of these being inactive. The pastor's salary has grown from \$200 a year to \$7500 a year with a nice comfortable parsonage for his home. Time brings many changes.

There is another phase of work carried on by our church visitor, Mrs. J. T. Otto. She contacts the new people who come to the church services or whose names have been given her and calls upon them. She not only extends a warm church welcome to them, but, if they are Methodists, invites them to send for their church transfers so that they may find a church home. In the years 1943 to July 31, 1947, she has made 539 calls and no doubt by the time this book is read, her list will have reached the 600 mark. She also visits the homes of members where there are new babies to get the names on our Cradle Roll and now has 221 of these tiny folk enrolled.

Assisting Mrs. Otto is a special committee which calls on sick and shut-ins. This committee is headed by Miss Flora Snyder and Mrs. Frank Crary, two women well fitted for this kind of work. One must bear in mind that these calls do not include those made by the women of the Women's Society of Christian Service.

Looking forward to plans for the coming year, when vacation days are over, will be a more intensive work in the Evangelistic Campaign. It is Dr. Smith's plan to have this work get under way in October. He also feels that the men should have a more active part in this work and not leave it all to the women. Hence, on this working committee, will be representatives from Adult Sunday School Classes down to those of High School age.

Many new young couples are seen in the services. They find First Church the church they wish to attend. Some come because they are Methodists, others because they have heard so much about our pastor and his sermons. Still others, being in the habit of attending church services, come to First Church because it is downtown and easily accessible. Before they decide to send for their church letters, their big worry is to find a place to live. Sometimes the people in the office are able to help them but more often they have to say they do not know of any vacancies.

There is a fine class of young married people, the Baraca-Philathea, taught by A. W. Clark. These young people and their teacher have done an excellent work in making these young couples welcome. It is no time at all until all feel they have been friends for a long time.

The year that is before us will be a busy one for all. First Church assures the stranger a warm, kindly welcome

"Come, let us worship together!"



So here she stands today, The Downtown Protestant Church at the Heart of the Calumet — 1946



We Plan for the Future
The above drawing as presented at the Quarterly Conference, Nov. 3, 1947, by
Architect James Turner

OMISSION

The name of Mrs. G. W. Cravens was omitted from the list of those having served as presidents of the Ladies Aid Society. Mrs. Cravens was the president at the time of unification.

We are especially grateful to the following who furnished material and pictures:

Mrs. A. A. Winslow, Mrs. W. C. Belman, Mr. Theo. Moor, Miss Nellie Fowler, Mrs. Ethel Holway, Mrs. Wm. Bardens, Rev. Israel Hatton, and Mrs. Fred Malon. The photographs of the G. H. Hammond Company groups were loaned by Mr. Fred Kolb.

Other sources of material were Northwest Indiana Conference Minutes, Timothy Ball's History of Lake County Sunday Schools, Howat's History of Lake County, Ball's History of Lake and Porter Counties, old newspapers, old copies of Hammond Times.

There are no definite church records hence it has been a very difficult task to collect this material. Much of this has been obtained thru correspondence and personal contacts.

ERRATA

- Page 17. Official Board members. Mrs. J. W. DAKE instead of DRAKE.
- Page 70. Legend under lower right window should read: IN memory of Nettie and Emma Belman.
- Page 90. Upper legend: Mrs. Robert LONG (not Young), Teacher.
- Page 95. The Sunday School Board. Mrs. JAMES Nelson, Secretary.
- Page 117. The last three names should be: LEONARD HEATH, EWING BEST, JAMES NELSON.
- Page 152. Lower picture should read BOARD OF STEWARDS, 1946-47.
- Page 151 also Page 154. District Lay Leader should be LAY CONFERENCE MEMBER, Mrs. G. W. Cravens.
- Page 159. Under Memorials should be added Reredos—In memory of Frank T. Hallett—Mrs. Frank T. Hallett.

AN ANCIENT PRAYER

Give us, Lord, a bit o'sun,
A bit o'work and a bit o'fun;
Give us all in the struggle and splutter
Our daily bread and a bit o'butter;
Give us health our keep to make
And a bit to spare for poor folks' sake;
Give us sense, for we're some of us duffers,
An' a heart to feel for all that suffers.
An' a tale, and a book to help us along,
Give us, too, a bit of song,
An' give us our share of sorrow's lesson
That we may prove how grief's a blessin'.
Give us, Lord, a chance to be
Our goodly best, brave, wise and free;
Our goodly best, for ourselves and others
Till all men learn to live as brothers.

*(This ancient prayer was found on the wall of an old inn
in Lancashire, England.)*

By courtesy of Mr. J. T. Otto

Historical Advertising

The historical advertising, on the following pages, has brought new stories about many of the people who helped to build Hammond and to establish it as the Center of the Calumet Region. Their stories are true adventure. They tell of real people that we know; they tell of acts and deeds; they tell of the building of a community—our own.

To these men and women who have so graciously cooperated with the Committees on Publication and Advertising, the First Methodist Church—Old First—of Hammond extends its grateful thanks.

PUBLICATION COMMITTEE

L. A. MILNE
REX Hidy
MRS. J. C. STOKES
THEO. MOOR
MARVIN WHEELER
MRS. HARRY S. BROWN

ADVERTISING COMMITTEE

MRS. R. M. PIERCE
MRS. ROY BEUCUS
JOHN BLUME
A. T. BOLT
MARVIN WHEELER
MRS. HARRY S. BROWN

Emmerling Funeral Chapel

The Emmerling Funeral Chapel, with funeral homes located at 5322 and 6020 Hohman Avenue, Hammond, is the oldest established funeral firm in the city.

Back in the "Nineties," Mr. Nicholas Emmerling and Mr. John Krost started the funeral firm of Krost & Emmerling, occupying a small, frame structure at 147 South Hohman Avenue. This original location is now known as 5135 Hohman Avenue.

Two years later, Krost & Emmerling moved into a remodeled brick building at 413 Sibley Street.



The Emmerling ambulance in 1910, after having made a "fast" trip to St. Margaret's Hospital.

In 1906, Mr. John Krost sold his interest in the business to Mr. Nicholas Emmerling. For nearly twenty years, "Nick" Emmerling continued operating the business on Sibley Street, and then in 1920 he erected a modern brick funeral home at 5322 Hohman Avenue. When erected, there were no other business houses south of it on Hohman Avenue. In fact, Waltham Street was considered the end of the residential district.

After the death of Mr. Nicholas Emmerling in 1933, the business was conducted by Mrs. Emmerling and her son-in-law, Mr. Bayless Paddack. Mrs. Emmerling and Mr. John Blume were married in 1937, and since that time the business has continued under the direction of Mr. and Mrs. John Blume and Mr. and Mrs. Bayless Paddack.

In order to better serve the people of fast growing Hammond, the Dornfeld-Stewart Funeral Home, located at the corner of Hohman Avenue and Highland Street, was purchased in 1944.

EDWARD C. MINAS COMPANY

State Street

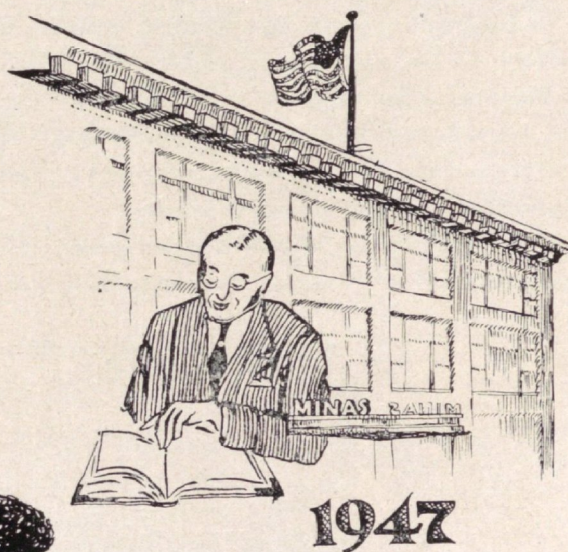
Hammond

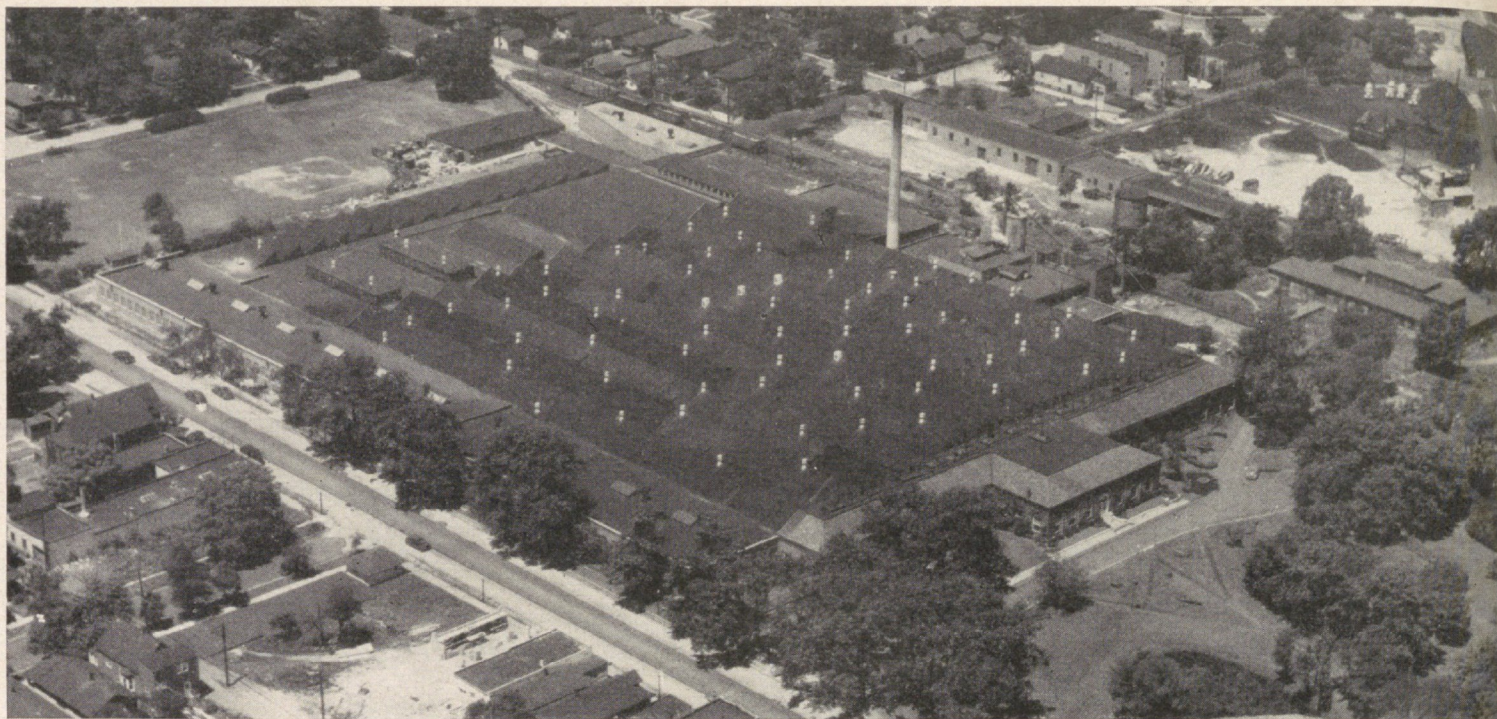


established
1890

Fifty-seven years on **The Pathway of Progress**

The years that have gone have left their mark of responsibility. The years that lie ahead hold a promise of greater opportunity—to serve you well, to remain the quality store of a quality city, to maintain assortments that shall fill your every need, and to welcome you always as a friend. To this we pledge ourselves again as we soon begin our fifty-eighth year devoted to that ideal.





Airview of the present plant of the W. B. Conkey Company, including new additions to plant completed in 1947, partial view of park at front entrance, and playground in rear.

THE W. B. CONKEY COMPANY is proud of its contribution to the growth and progress of the city of Hammond.

Chicago had just recovered from its great fire when Walter Blakesly Conkey opened a tiny basement shop in that city. It was 1877 and young Mr. Conkey was nineteen. He had already served his apprenticeship with several local printers and saved a meager fund with which second-hand equipment was purchased for his ambitious venture.

As his business grew, Mr. Conkey found it necessary to move it to larger locations, and in 1897 selected the city of Hammond for the erection of a new and modern plant for his business of book manufacturing. Lawn, trees, flowers and shrubbery soon transformed a prairie site into a plant and park of practical beauty.

The Conkey plant attracted many people to Hammond and new residential areas adjacent to the plant soon made

their appearance. The street cars extended their lines to reach the Conkey plant.

Year after year this manufacturing masterpiece has been altered and enlarged to match the march of progress where now more than 950 employees are engaged in the manufacture of books and catalogs of almost every description. Most of the nation's leading publishers of school books, encyclopedias, dictionaries and textbooks use the facilities and services of the W. B. Conkey Company for making their books, as do America's leading industries for making their catalogs.

The present plant of the W. B. Conkey Company is practically double the area of the original plant, and thus we have grown through the years with the people of the city and made Hammond a familiar landmark to all in the book publishing and manufacturing industry and to users of printed material throughout America.

W. B. CONKEY COMPANY • HAMMOND, INDIANA



Photograph of original plant under construction in 1897-8. So far as is known, this was the first factory of that style of architecture erected by any printing or binding company.

Champion Corporation

Hammond, Indiana



This building is where the Champion Corporation started in business at the rear of the site where the First Methodist Church now stands.

Founded in 1898 by Mr. Otto Knoerzer and first known as the Champion Potato Machinery Company.

This Company was founded and developed at Hohman and Fayette, where Mr. Knoerzer's Blacksmith and Horse-shoeing Shop was located.

The Hammond Building now occupies the land on which the Blacksmith Shop was located.

In 1902, property at the rear of the First Methodist church was rented from the church, and leased until 1904, when the present site of the Champion Corporation was purchased. Mr. W. C. Belman secured the lease from the church.

The Company's products are now shipped to all parts of the world.

ELMWOOD PARK CEMETERY, Inc.

Organized 1921

PERPETUAL CARE

at

NO EXTRA COST

1413 - 169th St.

Phone Sheffield 5707

HEMSTOCK REALTY CO.

BROKERAGE — MANAGEMENT

RENTALS — INSURANCE

210 Russell St.

Hammond, Ind.

Telephone Sheffield 236

G. Roscoe Hemstock

Jersey Maid Ice Cream Co., Inc.

150th and Cedar Sts.

Phone Sheff. 523

Formerly Consumers Ice Cream Co. on State Street. In 1914 moved to Plummer Street. Moved to present location in 1922. In 1928 changed name to Jersey Maid Ice Cream Co.

Serves all Lake County, Valparaiso, Calumet City and Lansing, Illinois.

P. H. MUELLER SONS

416 - 418 Sibley St.

Hardware Supplies — Dupont Paints

Established in November, 1882, at 5116 Hohman avenue by P. H. Mueller. A small store in a small community. Faith in the future of Hammond, and a desire to better serve the community, prompted P. H. Mueller to erect his own building at 416-418 Sibley in 1902. In 1916, his sons Henry and Jacob succeeded him in ownership. Inspired by their father's faith and desire to serve, they expanded from a small store to one of the largest retail and wholesale Hardware Stores in Lake County.

As we approach our 60th anniversary, we honor the memory of our brother and father Mr. Jacob Mueller, who passed away Sept. 27, 1947, leaving two sons, P. H. and Quentin to succeed him in partnership with Mr. Henry Mueller. So we remain

P. H. MUELLER SONS.

Hardware and Paint

Jack Fox & Sons

HAMMOND BLDG.

HOHMAN AT FAYETTE

As the libraries and schools are institutions of Hammond, so is Jack Fox & Sons.

Thirty-five years ago, on January 1st, Jack Fox opened a small shop adjoining the lobby of the Hammond Building. Just another small store selling nothing but haberdashery—but as an acorn grows to a tree, so that store has grown to be one of the most important men's stores in the state of Indiana.

It was founded by Mr. Jack Fox with the help of Mr. Roland Fox, his son just out of High School, as the only clerk in the store. In 1918, with World War I coming on, Roland and Clarence enlisted in the army. Coincidental with the enlisting of his two sons, and the fact that the National Bank needed larger quarters, Mr. Fox moved the store to the Northeast corner of State and Hohman streets.

In 1926 it was moved to the middle of the block between Fayette and Sibley Streets, where a very modern store was built. In 1933, the year of the Chicago World's Fair, Jack Fox and Sons was the first men's store in Indiana to install air conditioning.

In 1943 the store was moved to the present Hammond Building location, back again to the place where it was founded, but employing 15 times more people. Probably no other store has had quite the interesting experiences as this one. It has had the pleasure of serving many of the countries' celebrities, among them the Picard Brothers who went to the stratosphere with Fox caps on their heads.

Chicago and Calumet District Transit Co., Inc.

4923 Columbia Avenue

Phone Sheffield 4580

Hammond, Indiana

How far ahead do we plan? Long ago — 1866 — when Hammond was only a village known as State Line, a franchise for local transportation was granted to the Horse & Steam Dummy St. Railway Co., giving it the right to operate cars on the village streets. The franchise was to expire at the end of two years. Cars would not be allowed to travel faster than 8 miles per hour. However, no tracks were laid and six years later the franchise was revoked.

April 18, 1892 the Hammond Electric Railway was granted a franchise and laid a two mile track on Hohman and State Street. The end of the track was in front of the home of Al Walker one of the early motormen. So at the end of his day's work, he left the street car standing in front of his house, ready for him to board the next morning. If electricity failed, animal power was to be used. 1893 saw the extension of the service to East Chicago and Whiting. Then the Whiting line was extended to the State Line providing street car service to 63rd Street. Open air trolley car parties became popular. With the coming of the Conkey Plant, the local line was extended on Conkey Street to give better service.

Growing subdivisions demanded better transportation. Horse drawn hacks and buses were numerous and in the early nineteen twenties the "jitney taxi" plied the streets.

June 1, 1926 The Shore Line Co. was organized and began operating with 17 buses. Fifteen days later, Mr. J. C. Johnson, the present manager, joined the company. In 1931 all transportation methods were taken over by the Chicago and Calumet District Transit Co. Today 138 buses operate in the Calumet Region with 412 employees and a Shore Line family of nearly 1200.

These buses travel 20,000 miles per day and make 70,000 track crossings per day. In 1946 coaches operated 6,796,438 miles and approximately 500,000 coach hours.

1927—63 out of 100 passengers could complete their ride without transfers.

1947—90 out of 100 complete their ride without transfers.



Henry J. Schmueser at the wheel of a 1908 Ford, Model T. Picture taken at 226 Clinton St., Hammond, Ind.

John Schmueser, Vice Pres.

Henry J. Schmueser, Pres.

Harold G. Schmueser, Sec'y & Treas.

John Schmueser, the founder of John Schmueser & Sons, Inc., started in the painting, decorating and glazing business in Hammond, Indiana in 1896, operating a store at 420 Sibley Street, which he built and owned until January of 1920, when he sold the business and building to his brother William Schmueser. (The Pittsburgh Plate Glass Company now occupies this store.)

In the spring of 1907 John Schmueser started in the automobile business selling Fords in connection with the Painting business, until the spring of 1910 when he took the Buick franchise which also was operated with his Painting and Glass business. His first repair shop was his stable at which is now 226 Clinton Street.

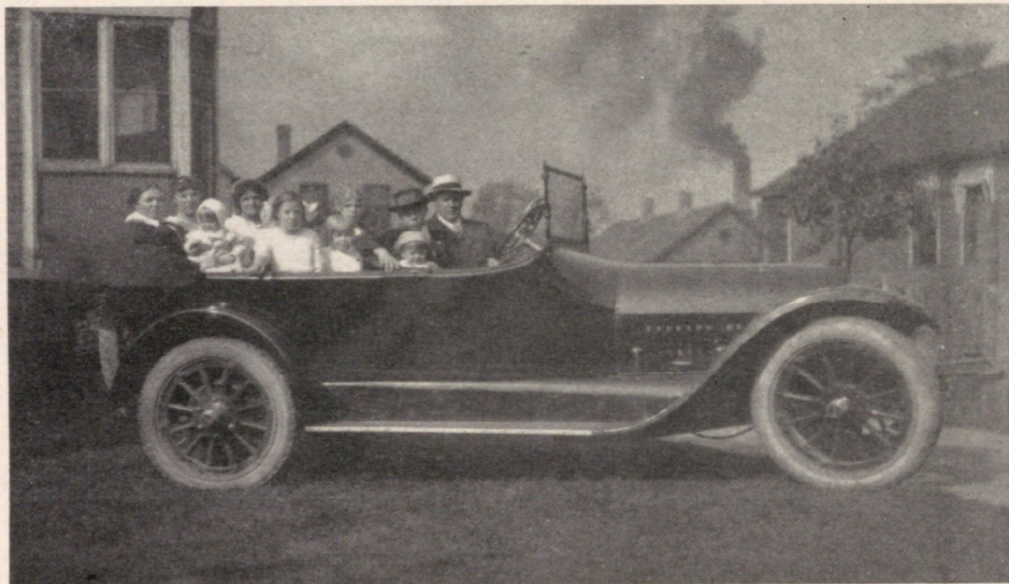
In 1918 and 1919 he conducted the automobile business at what is now 137 Sibley Street. The present place of business at 5412 - 5414 Hohman Avenue was built by John Schmueser in 1919 and he moved into the building in January, 1920.

Henry J. Schmueser has spent about all of his life in the automobile business, drove his first car, a Model T Ford, at the age of nine, and was in the repair shop as a mechanic until 1929 when he took over the management of the automobile business with his father.

Harold G. Schmueser has been in the automobile business since 1935 after graduating from Valparaiso University.

In 1937 John Schmueser purchased the property at the Southwest corner of Condit and Hohman Avenue, where their new BUICK showroom and service station is now under construction.

Daughter Ida Schmueser was bookkeeper and office manager from 1918 to 1935.



The John Schmueser Family in a 1916 Buick, Model D-55, 7 Passenger.
Front Seat: John Schmueser, Henry J. and Harold G. Schmueser.
Rear Seats: Mrs. John Schmueser, Miss Ida Schmueser, Mrs. Marie Herbst, Miss Clara Schmueser, Mrs. Mabel Mueller (Deceased), Mrs. Ella Meissler, Mrs. Gertrude Brown.
Picture taken at which is now 226 Clinton St., Hammond, Ind.

The Northern Indiana Public Service Company - Hammond District

On January 31, 1893, the Hammond Light and Power Company purchased the first land in the city of Hammond for an electric generating plant. On May 26, 1901, a franchise was granted to the Hammond Illuminating Company to furnish electricity in Hammond. The first officers and directors of the Hammond Illuminating Company were:

President—William H. Gostlin
Vice-President—Pierre K. Tyng
Treasurer—Lucien H. Tyng
Secretary—H. E. Grant
Directors: P. H. Tyng, Herold G. Meadows, A. Murray
Turner, W. H. Gostlin, H. E. Grant

The name was later changed to South Shore Gas and Electric Company. In 1909, it became the Northern Indiana Gas and Electric Company. In 1912, it was changed to Calumet Electric Company; in 1924 the name was changed to Calumet Gas and Electric Company and in 1926, the name was changed to Northern Indiana Public Service Company.

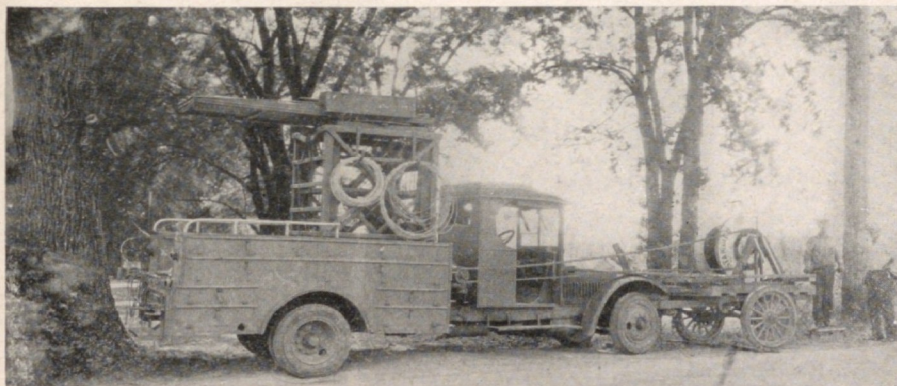
The first electric generating plant in Hammond was at the corner of Hanover and Sheffield, the site of the company's present meter shop. In the early days, push carts were used for tools and equipment for installing services and service calls. They were pushed through the streets, gas pipes were secured to the side of the cart and the foreman had a motor cycle to go around and check up on the men working on the various jobs. Meter readers used bicycles in reading meters. For Hobart and Crown Point, they would place their bicycles on the Monon or Erie and ride to Hobart and Crown Point, read the meters on their bicycles and come back to Hammond at the end of the day with their bicycles on the train.

There was a barn at Wilcox and Hohman where about five or six horses were kept and also two line wagons for carrying poles. The remainder of the equipment was rented from public livery stables. There was one horse that was very unpredictable. It had a bobbed tail and was always doing something unexpected. One of the most frequent happenings was for it to come up missing. A search would locate it out in the "woods"—the "woods" being dense willow growth on the north side of Hammond.

One time one of the men was driving a horse drawn wagon and something frightened the horse at Indiana Avenue and Hohman Street, causing it to bolt and crash into the window of the Ford salesroom, breaking a plate glass and injuring the driver. Pipe and fittings were delivered to the men on service jobs by way of horse and wagon. The service men would take the street car as far as they could and then walk the rest of the way. Later when the job was completed or at the end of the day, the tools and equipment would be picked up by the horse and wagon.

As Hammond grew, so did the gas and electric company supplying these services in the city. At the beginning, the electric generating plant was started up early in the evening and shut down late at night, but eventually, the service was improved until it was on a continuous around-the-clock basis. The same is true with other equipment. Horse-drawn vehicles were replaced by motor cars and trucks as they became available.

From the beginning, the trend of the price of utilities service has been downward and customers today are paying far less per unit for gas and electric service than was the case in the "good old days".



Modern equipment truck



The horse drawn wagon of earlier days.



East Chicago Terminal

Shell Oil Company, Incorporated

Oil companies utilize almost every known means of transportation . . . tank cars . . . trucks . . . mammoth barges . . . ocean-going tankers. Few people realize, however, that the nation's primary oil artery is none of these, but a network of more than 140,000 miles of pipelines, which fans out underground over the entire country.

Since 1940, East Chicago has been an important link in this system, serving as the northern terminus of a 250-mile products pipe line originating in the Shell Oil Company's Wood River, Ill., refinery. Average daily throughput is 25,000 barrels of petroleum products.

Perhaps the most amazing thing about the line is that a dozen or more products often run through it simultaneously. Motor gasoline may be first, then kerosene, aviation gasoline, propane, and so on. Through carefully controlled pumping rates, pipe line experts can move products in this manner and still have each retain its individual characteristics on the 3½-day trip from Wood River to the local terminal.

From East Chicago, products are transported by lake tanker to Milwaukee and Green Bay, Wisconsin; Grand Haven, St. Joseph, Kipling and Bay City, Michigan; and frequently Detroit and Cleveland through the Straights of Mackinac.

The terminal has about 100 employees. It covers some 600 acres of land in the Calumet industrial district, and has total storage capacity of approximately three million barrels.

Before 1940, East Chicago was for 13 years the site of a Shell refinery which processed 27,000 barrels of crude oil daily.

Confidence . . .

is defined by Mr. Webster as; "that in which faith is put . . . reliance upon another's fidelity." It is not a big word, but the successful striving for same is an achievement. Years upon years of honest dealing, the ability to satisfy a friend, a neighbor or a customer, proving one's word is actually one's bond. This is CONFIDENCE.

COUSINS are justly proud of their signature . . . "THE STORE THAT CONFIDENCE BUILT." For more than a quarter of a century, the owners and employees of Cousins have strived continually for this achievement. Cousins Jewelers have proudly grown with Hammond and daily, jealously protect the confidence of its citizens.

Today, as 26 years ago, you may continue to shop with confidence, at "The store that confidence built" . . . Cousins Jewelers.



An organization serving business in Lake, Porter, and LaPorte counties with Industrial and Contractor Supplies and Equipment also General Hardware, is the Standard Equipment & Supply Corporation located at 534-36 Michigan Street, Hammond, Indiana.

The Standard Equipment & Supply Corporation distributing products of national reputation is the largest of its kind in Northern Indiana. It is estimated that over 15,000 varieties and sizes of merchandise are confined within its warehouses covering more than 50,000 square feet.

The company saw its growth in very normal fashion. Starting with a skeleton force and meagre stocks, it has gradually added to both, so that today sixty-five local people are employed. A number of employees have been with the company for some years and are well trained in the policies, practices, and knowledge of this business.

Its place as a Distributor serving industry and business for the past twenty-six years has been a vital factor in keeping Northern Indiana abreast the leaders in the race for prominence in the Industrial, Commercial, and Civic life.

The company in June 1932 succeeded the McLaughlin Mill Supply Company which was organized in 1922. The present officers are Jos. J. Badalli, president; L. Freeman, executive vice president; A. A. Polito, vice president in charge of sales, and H. H. Norden, secretary-treasurer.

STANDARD EQUIPMENT & SUPPLY CORP.

Distributors

Phones: Hammond—Sheffield 3060
Chicago—Saginaw 8060

534-536 Michigan Street
Hammond, Indiana

Office Phone
Sheffield 2253

Residence Phone
Sheffield 5921-W

F. G. CRARY & SONS

Established 1908

General Contractors

HAMMOND, INDIANA

Residential - Commercial - Industrial

THE HAMMOND LUMBER CO.

The Oldest Lumber Yard in Town
Established 1891

**MILLWORK - LUMBER - ROOFING
BUILDING SUPPLIES**

Office and Yards
at

Oakley and Wilcox — Hammond, Indiana

Wm. C. Heller
Pres. and Mgr.

HARTNETT COLLEGE....

STANDARD BUSINESS COLLEGE
5248 Hohman Avenue
HAMMOND, INDIANA

In the fall of 1932 the doors of Hartnett College were opened to the public by its president, Jerome P. Hartnett, whose aim and purpose was to train and prepare the young men and young women of the Calumet Region to fill the skilled office positions that the industries of the region had been seeking for many years.

The College teaching staff consists of all university graduate instructors and the courses offered are of university level. Day classes are in session for the 52 weeks of the year and are open to high school graduates and college students. It may be interesting to note that of the 5000 students trained during the past 15 years approximately 1000 of them were university graduates or had some college training and for further comparison the college has enrolled and averaged training over 300 students a year for the past 15 years.

It has been an inspiration to the College and its students alike that many of the graduates of the College are now executives in business and frequently call for present graduates to fill positions in their offices.

The College is approved by the Indiana Board of Education and the Veterans' Administration and has deemed it a privilege and an honor to train and work with the many ex-service men and women who have taken advantage of the G.I. training program, and, at the present time, one-half of the enrollment is made up of the ex-service people.

For Better Plastering

ARTHUR VERGIN

LATHING AND PLASTERING CONTRACTOR

7132 Chestnut Street
Hammond, Indiana

Estimates Cheerfully Given
Thirty years in business

The Hammond Times

Hammond's possibilities as a future industrial and business center attracted the attention of the late Sidmon McHie, a Chicago real estate and grain broker at the turn of the century and he invested heavily in land. To promote the growth of the Calumet region he decided a better newspaper was needed.

Mr. McHie purchased the old Hammond Tribune, a struggling daily, kept alive largely for political purposes. He also bought a Hobart weekly and combined the two plants. After rounding up capable newspaper men to augment the force of the Tribune the first edition of The Lake County Times appeared June 18, 1906. It's editor was Hugh E. Keough, who was borrowed from a Chicago newspaper for two years to establish The Times.

The entire working force comprised two dozen men and women as compared with more than 135 now engaged in getting out the paper. The circulation hovered around 10,000 for many years then started climbing steadily. Now, under the limitations of newsprint supply, it is going into 40,000 homes.

The Times has had its part in the development of this region into one of the great industrial centers of America. It has carried the story of this growth and the people who participated, great and small. It is served by two great news services in the state, national and foreign fields but it is primarily interested in home news. Its local field is more complicated to cover than that of many one-city papers of much greater circulation because we have five cities and six towns and villages all contiguous, plus the rural area and smaller communities to the south and west in Indiana and Illinois.

Although the paper's name was changed to The Hammond Times in 1934, its interest is regionwide and it strives to live up to its slogan: "The Calumet Region's Home Newspaper".

The death of Mr. McHie in August, 1944, left the paper in the hands of an estate trust. Under terms of the will it continued to be operated by the heirs with James S. DeLaurier as executive director and publisher.



FIRST FRONT OFFICE OF LAKE COUNTY TIMES

First "front office" force of the Lake County Times shortly after the paper was established in 1906. Seated left foreground, late Hugh E. Keough, editor, who later started the "Wake of the News" column in the Chicago Tribune. Right foreground, busy, is Matt. P. Ludwig, reporter now in the insurance business. Left, Mrs. Marian Freeman, of East Chicago who, with her husband Joseph, devoted a life to newspaper work, and Mrs. Claude Potter, then "Kitty" McFadden. Just behind Mrs. Freeman, in the shadows, is Joseph Sherby, and sitting next to Mrs. Potter is Anthony Baker, both office boys who later made good in Hammond. The other four men facing the camera are (left to right) Roscoe E. Woods, reporter-photographer (who took the picture by remote control) later a successful real estate operator; Edson "Rex" Taylor now deceased, a reporter who came from Lowell; Hugh McGovern, circulation manager, and Richard I. Marr, manager.

First Federal Savings and Loan Association

On October 17th, 1933, J. Clinn Ellyson, A. G. Elem, Dr. Frederick C. Baker, Dr. P. Q. Row, Harry E. Folk and H. H. Peel, the original organizing committee, petitioned the Federal Home Loan Bank Board at Washington for authority to organize the First Federal Savings and Loan Association of Hammond. Permission was granted November 9th, 1933, and Federal Charter No. 73, out of some 1500 granted to date, was issued to the First Federal of Hammond on January 10th, 1934, upon a paid-in capital of \$5000.00 subscribed by some fifty men and women residents of Hammond.

The first Board of Directors elected by these fifty shareholders were: J. Clinn Ellyson, T. W. Kolle, E. R. Jacobson, Harry E. Folk, James W. Dye, Dr. E. S. Jones, William Schmueser, R. I. Hall, John J. Brehm, Percy Smith and Roland Fox.

The first officers elected by these directors were: J. Clinn Ellyson, President; William Schmueser, Vice President; Harry E. Folk, Secretary-Treasurer; and Carl A. Huebner, Attorney.

The organization then being completed, the First Federal Savings and Loan Association, the first to be chartered by the Federal Government for Hammond, opened its doors for business in quarters now occupied by the Mercantile National Bank, later moving to the rear portion of the lobby of the Calumet National Bank, and a year ago moved into a new home of their own at 131 Rimbach Street.

The Association now has assets of approximately two and one-half million dollars with more than 1500 shareholders where their savings are insured up to \$5000.00 each, the money being loaned in the financing of homes.

The present Board of Directors are: J. Clinn Ellyson, Dr. E. C. Hulett, Maurice Jackson, J. C. Johnson, A. N. Langendorff, Gibson A. Meyer, Joseph R. Mottle, James McShane, and H. L. Strickland, and the present officers are: J. Clinn Ellyson, President; J. C. Johnson, 1st Vice President; Gibson A. Meyer, 2nd Vice President; Irene Rybarczyk, Secretary; Harold E. Stout, Treasurer; and Hazel Race, Cashier.



New Home of First Federal Savings & Loan Association
131 Rimbach St.

The Test of Time... Hammond National Co.

In insurance and allied lines as in every other activity, the law of survival of the fittest, prevails.

Some of our companies now among the largest in the country were old, very old, when, what is now Hammond, was but a hamlet. It is significant too that these companies some of whom have been represented in Hammond for more than 50 years have sought out the Hammond National Company to represent them in this community.

Among the score of companies we represent are:

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--------|
| Insurance Co. of No. America, Founded | 1792 |
| Providence Washington | " 1799 |
| Fire Association | " 1817 |
| Aetna | " 1819 |
| Pennsylvania | " 1825 |
| Springfield Fire & Marine | " 1849 |
| Home Insurance Co. | " 1853 |
| United States Fidelity & Guaranty | " 1896 |

THROUGH WARS, PANICS AND DISASTERS
THEY STOOD—ALWAYS PROTECTING.

And speaking of the time factor, this agency is in the hands of men who have been rooted in Lake County for generations.

This agency is located on the main floor of its own three story building at 5248 Hohman Ave., two doors south of the Superior Court House in Hammond.

HAMMOND NATIONAL COMPANY

Real Estate INSURANCE Tax Service
PHONE SHEFFIELD 4000

H. J. GESCHEIDLER, Sr. W. A. MacNARY
H. J. GESCHEIDLER, Jr. W. E. GESCHEIDLER
Member of the Hammond Insurance Agents Association

COMPLIMENTS

of

THE CALUMET NATIONAL BANK OF HAMMOND

5231 Hohman Avenue
HAMMOND, INDIANA



Organized 1933

Member Federal Reserve Bank
Member Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation

COMPLETE BANKING FACILITIES

A Newcomer In Hammond

Hammond Mattress Shop

MANUFACTURERS AND RENOVATORS

of

**HIGH GRADE MATTRESSES AND FEATHER
WORK**



Nola Love, Prop.

Phone Sheffield 6354

Factory 601 Michigan St.

Branch Store 726 State St.

"The rest of your days depends
upon the rest of your nights"

HAMMOND SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Piano - Voice - Accordion - Electric Guitar

Band and Orchestral Instruments

5324 HOHMAN AVENUE
HAMMOND, IND.

Nov. 8th, 1947

The Hammond School of Music was organized about twenty-five years ago as a branch of the Chicago Piano College (of Chicago) at 7 Williams Street, under the management of Mr. and Mrs. Barlow. Later the school was moved to 864 South Hohman Avenue, which address was changed to 5722 Hohman when the city re-numbered the streets. That location was formerly the home of Mr. and Mrs. Richard McHie.

In 1928 Mr. and Mrs. Wm. O'Donnell purchased the school and changed the name to "The Hammond School of Music," enlarging the faculty, which at that time consisted of three teachers of piano, violin and voice to the present staff of twelve teachers in piano, violin, voice, harmony, music appreciation, accordion, guitars, band and orchestra instruments.

In 1943 the music school was moved to its present location, 5324 Hohman Avenue. It is the only music school of its kind in the Calumet Region, teaching all branches of music, and approved by the state for veterans of World War II who wish to study music under the GI Bill of Rights.

Wheeler Studio

146 State Street
Hammond, Indiana

Telephone Sheffield 9070

Mr. and Mrs. Citizen
Hammond, Indiana

Weddings :
Children's Portraits :
Copying :
Identification Photos :
Commercial :
Industrial :

Dear Friends:

Most of the pictures in this Book were either taken by us or reproduced from old photos, old books or newspapers. If you are interested in obtaining any of the pictures in this book, please contact us.

We specialize in the handling of old pictures in any condition and in the reproduction of all papers and manuscripts, etc.

Sincerely yours,

Marian Wheeler

Photographer

Theodore Moor, Realtor

Manager Calumet National Corporation

5450 Calumet Avenue

Telephone Sheffield 239

Hammond, Indiana

GENERAL INSURANCE

AUTO, FIRE, EXTENDED COVERAGE, CASUALTY, BONDING

REAL ESTATE

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT — RENTING

FIRST MORTGAGE LOANS

Apply to Calumet Federal Savings & Loan Assn.,

THEO. MOOR, SECY. & TREAS.

INCOME TAX SERVICE AND FINANCIAL SERVICE

SAFETY DEPOSIT BOXES

TELEPHONE HAMMOND 785

AIR CONDITIONED FOR YOUR COMFORT

Brahos Coffee Shop

5239 HOHMAN AVENUE
HAMMOND, INDIANA

Mr. Peter Brahos moved from the city of Chicago, Illinois, to Hammond, Indiana, in October of 1902, and obtained a position in the Maine Restaurant located at the northwest corner of State Street and Hohman Avenue, and operated by the Bereolos brothers.. In 1906 he acquired a one-third interest in the Maine Restaurant together with the Bereolos brothers, and they operated as a three-way partnership until 1912, when Mr. Brahos sold his interest to the Bereolos brothers.

Sometime during April of 1911, Mr. Brahos formed a partnership with Mr. Charles Van Sickle for the operation of a moving picture theatre in the Schloer Building, on the north side of West State Street. In 1914, he sold his interest to Mr. Van Sickle. In October of 1914, Mr. Brahos opened what was known as the Hammond Cafe at the northeast corner of State and Bulletin Streets, and continued operating this cafe until July of 1925. His only reason for giving up this location was due to the fact that the landlord desired to operate a clothing store personally, and would not renew the lease.

From March, 1926 to September, 1927, Mr. Brahos served as manager of the Jersey Maid Ice Cream Company at 150th and Cedar Streets. During September of 1927 he purchased from Mr. Nicholas Brahos, what was known as the Hammond Lunch Room in the Kleihege Building. He changed the name to the Brahos Coffee Shop, and operated same until March of 1937. At this time the Kleihege estate owned property known as 5239 Hohman Avenue, and erected a modern building for Mr. Brahos. He moved his Brahos Coffee Shop to this address, and has operated a fine restaurant up to the present time. He has been very ably assisted by Mrs. Agnes Brahos, and the partnership of Peter and Agnes Brahos continues very successful and efficient.

GOOD FOOD IS GOOD HEALTH



CELEBRATING OUR 52nd ANNIVERSARY

J. W. Millikan, Inc.

Two Convenient Stores

449 State St.

5259 Hohman Ave.

SPORTING GOODS - RADIOS
APPLIANCES - PHONOGRAPH RECORDS



Millikan's Hohman Street Store About 1907

MINER-DUNN, Inc.

MINER-DUNN INDUSTRIAL FEEDING CO.

3529-35 Michigan Avenue
EAST CHICAGO, INDIANA

The firm of Miner-Dunn, Inc. had its origin in Hammond, having begun business on May 19th, 1932, at a time when the depression of the early 30's was at its worst, there not being a bank open in the city of Hammond. Business started in an old house that had been remodeled, at 5440 Calumet Avenue. The equipment consisted of a second-hand counter and six stools and a few meager items of kitchen equipment, all of which was purchased for \$50.00 out of the total of \$80.00 cash capital invested.

The growth of the firm was slow but steady so that when the war began in 1941 it was operating seven retail shops in the region, having slightly more than 100 employees. During the war the firm assumed the task of feeding the employees of the Inland Steel Company plant at Indiana Harbor and also furnished overtime lunches to the Standard Oil Whiting Refinery, together with a limited food service to a number of other plants. Today, Miner-Dunn, Inc. is providing some form of daily food service to more than 10,000 people and conducting a comprehensive catering service which reaches all the cities of the Calumet region, both in Indiana and Illinois.

NELSON DRUG COMPANY

Pharmaceutical Chemists
5635 CALUMET AVENUE
Hammond, Indiana

HAMMOND'S OLDEST DRUG STORE

For over 35 years this institution has served the people of Hammond; 21 years at Hohman and Munich Court and 14 years in our present location, 5635 Calumet Avenue.

That we have done a good job is evidenced by ever increasing business. We enjoy the confidence of the Physician and public by giving quality professional service and operating a good drug store.

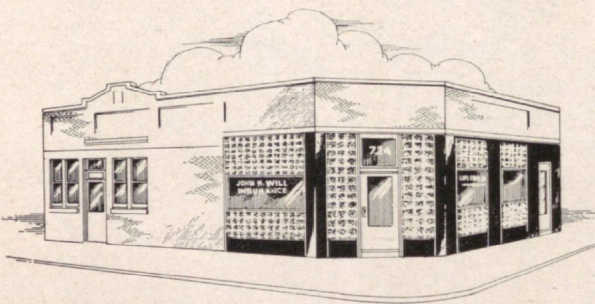
While giving particular attention to the filling of prescriptions and the sale of Health needs we carry a well rounded stock of merchandise usually carried by better stores. Household remedies, First Aid supplies, Cosmetics, Correspondence Stationery, Cigars, Cigarettes and smokers' supplies, Leather Goods, Fountain Pens, Candies, Kodaks, Films and developing service, Trusses with fitting service, and a clean Fountain where we serve SEALTEST ice cream.

NELSON'S DRUG STORE

5635 Calumet Avenue

Carl E. Nelson

C. Robert Nelson



into a modern Insurance office. Located in new office building since December, 1945.

Agent for several good Stock and Mutual Companies and District Agency Manager for Lafayette Life Insurance Company, featuring honest courteous service in all lines of Insurance, with the motto—"A Will to Serve You Better".

John H. Will Insurance Agency

LIFE - FIRE - AUTO and GENERAL CASUALTY INSURANCE

724 CONKEY ST., HAMMOND, INDIANA

PHONE RUSSELL 7262

GARTNER ROOFING CO.

YOUR LOCAL ROOFER

5336 Oakley Avenue

Hammond, Ind.

Phone Sheff. 2205

Coming to Hammond to finish his High School course, Norbit Gartner decided to stay in the town to build his future. Twenty-six years ago he became an apprentice in the roofing business. The next year he started his own firm at 614 Oakley Avenue. Three years later moved to present location, 5336 Oakley Avenue.

A Roof For Every Type of Building
JOHNS MANVILLE
and
BIRD AND SONS
ROOFING PRODUCTS

Wonder Bread

818 Michigan

Tel. Sheff. 492

THE SLO-BAKED BREAD

Keeps the bread line moving

Roy's Body & Fender Co.

474 Fayette St.

Phone Sheffield 3529

HAMMOND, INDIANA

Carriage work meant craftsmanship and artistry, especially in top and upholstery work. By 1910 the carriage and "the surrey with the fringe on top" were being replaced by the automobile. Cheaper methods of construction made the new vehicle available to more people.

Roy Beucus had been trained in carriage work when a day's work was from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.. A day's pay —?! "This is the time for me to make a change, so why not work on automobile tops since carriages are out of date?" thought the young Mr. Beucus. So he began to look about for a location and chose Hammond.

In 1917 he opened his first Automobile Top and Paint Shop on Hohman Avenue, just across from the Hammond Public Library. Here he remained five years, working on automobile tops and the side curtains of that day. Then he moved to Fayette Street and then to Calumet Avenue. But Fayette Street kept calling him. In 1931 he moved back to his old location, his present one, 474 Fayette, changing the name to Roy's Body & Fender Co.

1917—Top and side curtains! 1931—Body & Fender Co.

Carrie Long

DRESSES, SUITS, COATS, FURS, MILLINERY

Phone Sheff. 2705

5268 Hohman Ave.

HAMMOND, IND.

Thirty years ago a young girl, now Carrie Long, found a place in the ready-to-wear department of the Kaufman-Wolf Store. Personality and hard work soon brought its reward. In three years time, she had become a buyer for women's suits, coats and dresses.

In 1932 Goldblatt Bros. purchased the Kaufman-Wolf store. Many changes were made and on March 1 of that year Carrie Long resigned.

She began to dream of a shop of her own. Following the advice of influential business men, she made the dream come true and opened her own shop on August 1, 1932; 1932 when there were no banks in Hammond. The only bank in the region was in Whiting and thru this bank she conducted all business.

Today her courage and determination have brought their reward in the modern up-to-date shop where beautiful gowns and up-to-date apparel entice the feminine shopper.

Flowers...

hansen brothers

5320 Hohman Ave.

Phone Sheffield 201

Twenty-two years ago two young men, the "Hansen Brothers" opened a new business venture at Hohman Avenue and Clinton Street—a florist's shop. Here they remained thirteen years offering the public an abundant array of lovely seasonable flowers, at all times, and for all occasions.

Their growing business and increasing need for more and better display room, made a new location necessary. So in 1938 they moved to their new store room at 5320 Hohman Avenue, just two doors northward.

The beautiful display windows invite the passer-by to linger and enjoy the tasteful arrangement of the lovely flowers—a thing of beauty—a joy to all who pass that way.

MERCANTILE NATIONAL BANK OF HAMMOND

HAMMOND, INDIANA

The Mercantile National Bank of Hammond this year celebrated the fifteenth anniversary of its founding in 1932. During that period of time, resources have grown to approximately fifteen million dollars.

The bank has endeavored at all times to perform full banking services to the residents of the community. Among the services which have been offered are: checking accounts, savings accounts, personal loans, Federal Housing Administration loans, and other types of mortgage loans. A trust department is maintained and acts as guardian, administrator and trustee.

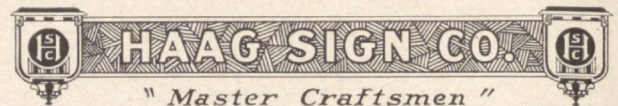
During the fifteen years the bank has been in operation, the personnel has grown from ten officers and employees to forty-eight officers and employees.

The management takes part in civic activities of every type in order to be of the utmost service to the community.

The bank is a member of the Federal Reserve System and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

O. O. HAAG

MARGARET C. HAAG



18 Russell St. Hammond, Ind.

ESTABLISHED 1920

BRIEF HISTORY

1920 to 1927 located on second floor in Kaufman & Wolf (Lion Store) building. Since 1927 have been located at 18 Russell Street. At present the residence and studios are at 18 and 20 Russell Street.

Painters and manufacturers of advertising and commercial signs such as rental, bulletins, walls, pictorial and special designs, wood and metal letters, truck and window work, etc.

Since 1935 Fine Arts Portrait Painting in oil has been emphasized and considerable recognition has been attained in this field. A special studio is maintained for this work.

Ervin Associates, Inc.

HOME SPECIALISTS

LAWRENCE S. ERVIN

F. DERRIL REED

503 Conkey Street Phone Russell 7233

HAMMOND, INDIANA

A life long interest in buildings and their construction, was the basis for the organization of Ervin Associates, Inc. One of the members, F. Derril Reed, is the son of the late J. Wesley Reed, one of Hammond's well known contractors. Feeling that Conkey street was destined to become a business center for that part of the city lying south of it, they decided to locate there also. So in 1930 they opened their office at 503 where they offer all forms of service dealing with real estate.

WELSH BROS. MOTOR SERVICE

Daily Service to

CHICAGO

CHICAGO HEIGHTS

BLUE ISLAND

LANSING

HARVEY

ROSELAND

HIGHLAND

DOLTON

EAST CHICAGO

SOUTH CHICAGO

GARY

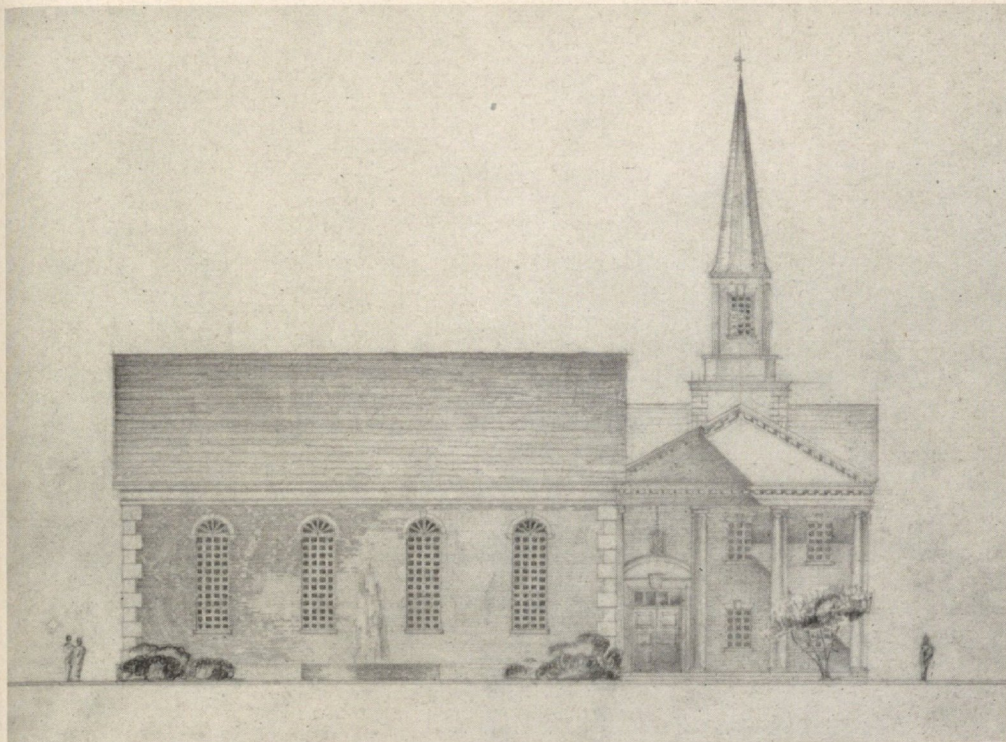
KENSINGTON

920 - 150th Street

Phone Sheffield 2338

HAMMOND, INDIANA

The building of better motor trucks gave the Welsh Bros. the opportunity to branch out and expand. Leaving the draying business, in August of 1928, they started their new line with 3 trucks. They were located near Sohl and State Streets. It was a common sight to see their vehicles parked in the vacant lot on State street across from the old State Theatre. Today they operate 60 units and have moved to a new address on 150th Street from where they render service in all lines of trucking.



Proposed
**First Methodist
 Church**

after remodeling and addition

Sketch by

James McClure Turner
 Architect

5244-46 Hohman Ave.
 Hammond, Indiana

Office of
 MAC TURNER and JAMES
 McCLURE TURNER, Architects

Established in Hammond — 1908

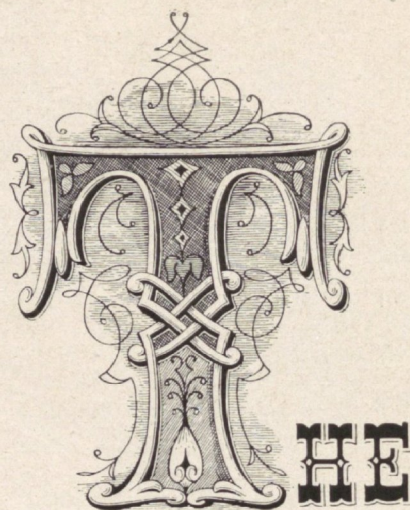
HOME PUBLISHING COMPANY, INC.

5809 Calumet Avenue
 HAMMOND, INDIANA

Telephone Sheffield 2410

COMMERCIAL PRINTERS

Printers of "Thru the Years With Old First"



**CALUMET
ENGRAVING**

**PHOTO ENGRAVERS
CO.**

LAYOUTS, ARTWORK
FOR ADVERTISING
PHOTO RETOUCHING
ZINC AND COPPER PLATES FOR PRINTING

422 WILLOW COURT, HAMMOND, INDIANA

Phone: Sheffield 2586

LAKE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY



3 3113 03672 0136

IND 287.6 BROW
Brown, Alice E.
A history of the First
Methodist Church of

LAKE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
INDIANA

SEP 2020

Black Oak
Cedar Lake
Central
Dyer-Schererville
Griffith

Highland
Hobart
Lake Station/New Chicago
Munster
St. John

Some materials may be renewed by phone, in person, or through the online catalog
if there are no reserves or fines due.

www.lcplin.org

LibraryLine: (219) 756-9356

